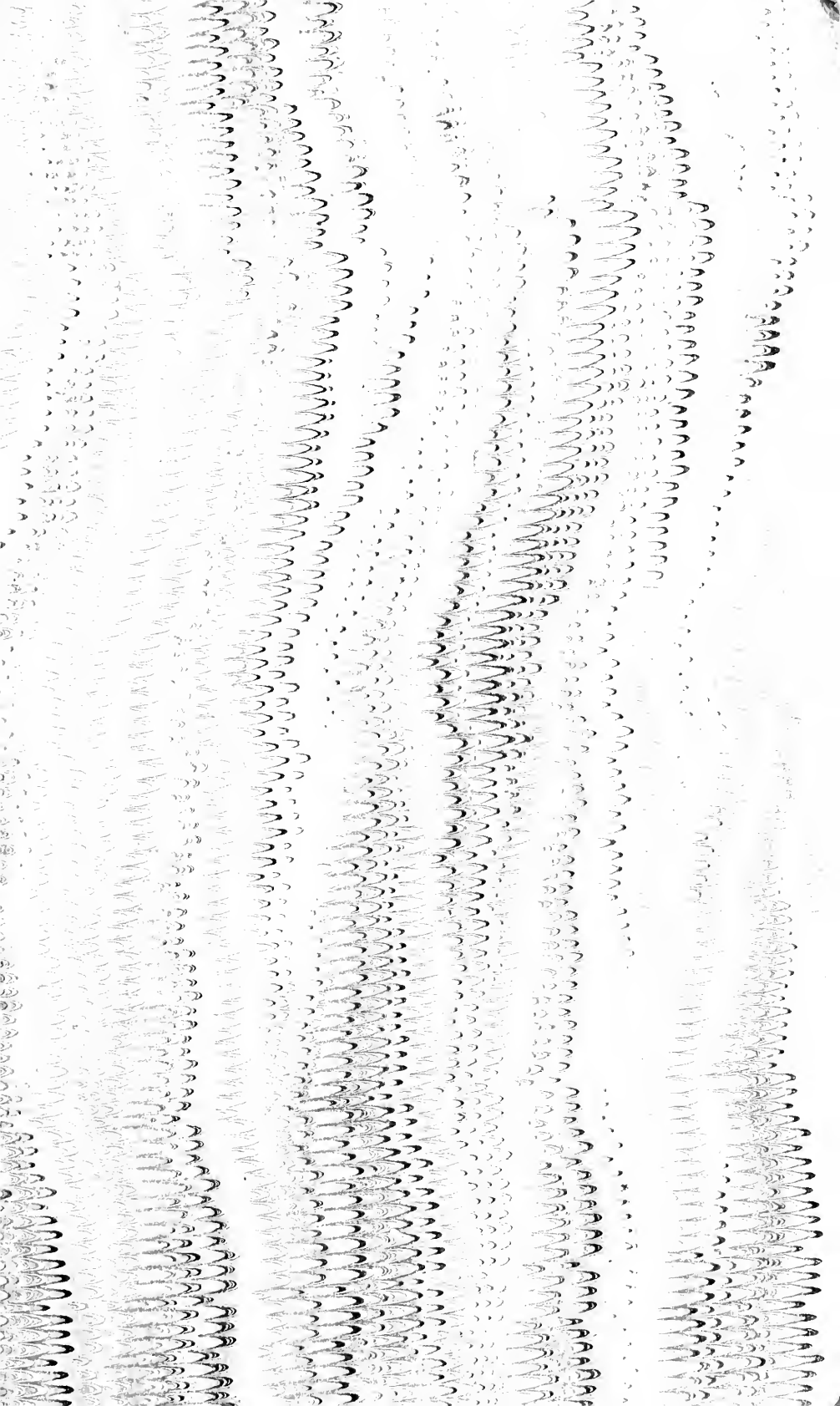
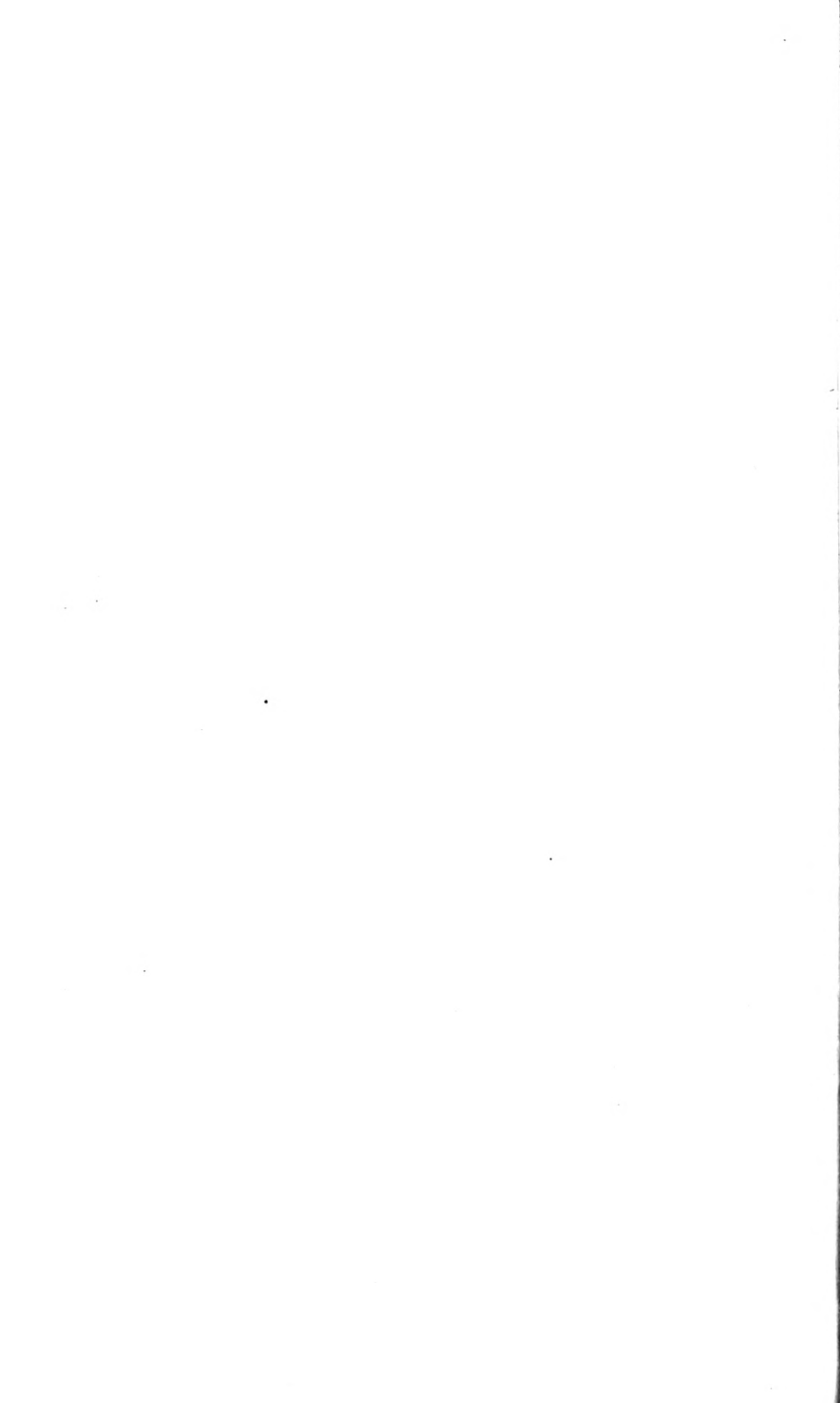
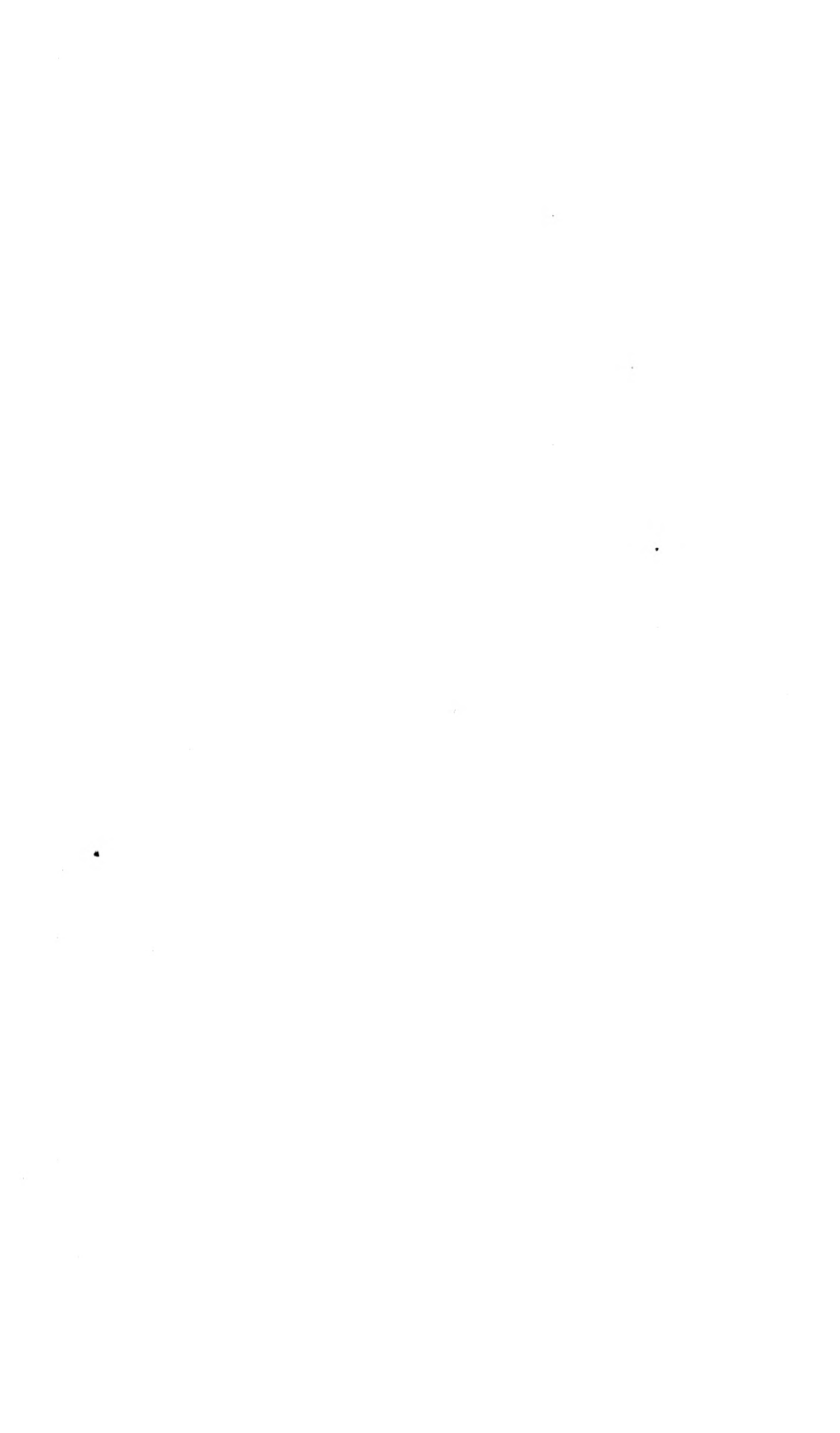


F  
74  
W72W6

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA















# CELEBRATION

OF THE

## ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE INCORPORATION OF

### WESTMINSTER, MASS.

CONTAINING AN

ADDRESS, BY HON. CHARLES HUDSON,  
OF LEXINGTON;

A

POEM, BY MR. WILLIAM S. HEYWOOD,  
OF MILFORD;

AND THE OTHER

PROCEEDINGS AND EXERCISES CONNECTED WITH THE OCCASION.

---

BOSTON:

PRESS OF T. R. MARVIN & SON, 42 CONGRESS STREET.

1859.



Hon. CHARLES HUDSON :

*Westminster, November 25, 1859.*

*Dear Sir,*—Agreeably to a vote of the Inhabitants of the Town, passed at a legal meeting, we respectfully request a copy of the Address prepared by you for our Centennial Celebration, that it may be published for distribution among the inhabitants of the town. Permit us to express the hope, that you will comply with our request.

Very respectfully, yours,

BENJAMIN WYMAN,  
WILLIAM S. BRADBURY,  
JOEL MERRIAM, Jr.,

*Committee of Publication.*

GENTLEMEN :

*Lexington, December 1, 1859.*

Your kind note of the 25th ultimo has been received; and I do not feel at liberty to deny a request coming, as it does, from the Inhabitants of a Town with which I am connected by so many pleasant associations. But I wish to embrace this opportunity to explain the character of the Address. I am sensible that it differs from most Addresses on such occasions. I was fully aware that an Address, more popular in its character, could be prepared with much less labor, and would be better adapted to the mere *convivialities of the day*. But being apprised in advance that it would be printed, and distributed among the Inhabitants of the Town, I chose to give it the character of a History, rather than that of an Oration. Great attention is paid, at this day, to historical and genealogical research, in every part of the country; and great efforts are made to procure Town Histories, and thus preserve the perishing papers and fading traditions connected with our early settlements. As no full History of your Town has been written, and as many facts could now be collected which in a few years will be irrevocably lost, I have purposely given to my Address a historical and genealogical character, believing that that would be the most profitable in the end, though perhaps less pleasing at the time. I have been more full in the genealogy of the early families than of the later; because the people now living can more easily supply the omissions in the later families, than in the families of the earlier settlers.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient and humble servant,

CHARLES HUDSON.

BENJAMIN WYMAN,  
WILLIAM S. BRADBURY,  
JOEL MERRIAM, Jr., Esqrs.,

*Committee of Publication.*

#### N O T E .

WESTMINSTER was incorporated as a District, October 20, 1759. That day would have been selected for the Celebration, but the adjoining town of Princeton was incorporated the same day, and it being understood that they would celebrate on that day, it was thought expedient to select some other day, so as to avoid all interference. Consequently, the 6th of October was selected for the Celebration at Westminster.

## A D D R E S S .

---

WE have met here to-day, not to honor the living, but to revere the dead. And, though we rightfully rejoice in the present, we glory in it as the result of the past. I stand here, to-day, to speak for the past; and, in the name of that past, I welcome you to these hills and vales, made fruitful by the toil of your fathers; to these rivulets, which watered and fertilized their meadows; to these delightful landscapes, which cheered and gladdened their hearts; to this Hill, where they knelt in devotion, and to yonder valley, where their remains rest in peace.

I am certain that the joys of this day will be heightened by a recurrence to days gone by,—by pleasant memories of the scenes of your childhood, and by the fond recollections of the mothers who bore, the fathers who protected, and the friends who surrounded you. The present is but the offspring of the past; and filial gratitude requires that we should, at stated times, turn our attention to what has gone before us. And surely it is not too much to turn aside from the bustle and business of life once in a Century, and contemplate our origin as individuals and as a community.

The causes which led to the settlement of New England, the landing of the Puritans upon these shores, the sufferings they endured, and the fortitude with which they bore them—their love of education, their attachment to civil liberty, and, above all, their ardent devotion to the great principles of religion, “are known and read of all men,” and need not be repeated here.

Two hundred years ago, this section of the Commonwealth had been traversed only by the red men of the forest; but they were then friendly, and were in a manner under the protection of the

Massachusetts Colony. For, on the 8th of March, 1644, at a Court held at Boston, Cutshamckin and Squaw-Sachem Masconomo, together with Nashacowam and Wassamagoin, two Sachems near the great Hill of the west, called Wachusett, came into the Court, and, according to their former tender to the Governor, desired to be received under the protection and government of the Colony.

The covenant then entered into included all the Indians between the Merrimack River and Taunton, and so embraced those who had wandered about the Wachusett. The ceremony of receiving them consisted in teaching them a few of the great principles of the Christian religion and the ten commandments. When they were told that they must not swear falsely, they answered, in their simplicity, that they "never knew what swearing an oath was." And when they were told that they must not work on the Lord's day, they innocently said, "it was a small thing for them to rest on that day, for they had not much to do on any day; and therefore they would forbear on that day." The Chiefs were received with great and solemn parade. They presented the Court with twenty-six fathom of wampum, and the Court gave each of them a coat of two yards of cloth, a good dinner, and to each of them a cup of sack at their departure; so they went away joyfully.

But while they were in quiet possession of the country north of the Wachusett, and manifested no unfriendly disposition, Philip, the bold and daring Chief of the Wampanoags, was, in 1675, plotting the extermination of the English settlements. Calling to his aid various tribes, and being joined by the powerful Narragansets, he became the terror of the Colonists. Massachusetts, Plymouth, and the neighboring Colonies, in order to resist the formidable force of this wily and daring Chief, ordered out most of the effective men in their respective dominions. This war, which lasted only about a year, was one of a most fearful and sanguinary character. Villages were burned, families were massacred, and all the barbarities of savage warfare were inflicted upon the inhabitants. And, while the women and children were exposed to all the horrors of the tomahawk and scalping-knife, of immediate destruction, or hopeless captivity, the poor soldiers in the field suffered incredible hardships from a winter campaign in unexplored forests and dismal swamps, exposed at all times to the midnight surprise or secret ambush of an insidious foe, practiced in all the arts of guile, and in every species of cruelty and torture. This war cost New

England the loss of six hundred men, and about the same number of dwellings laid in ashes by the ruthless savages.

Owing to the poverty of the Colonies, these soldiers, the brave defenders of the English settlers, were, at the time, but poorly rewarded for their services. After the lapse of more than half a century, the surviving soldiers belonging to Massachusetts, and the representatives of those who were sleeping with their fathers, petitioned the Legislature for further remuneration. Whereupon, the General Court, on the 15th of June, 1728, Resolved,

“That Major Chandler, Mr. Edward Shove, Major Tileston and Mr. John Hobson, be a Committee, fully authorized and empowered to lay out two tracts of land for townships, of the contents of six miles square each, in some of the unappropriated land of the Province; and that the said lands be granted and disposed of to the persons, whether officers or soldiers, belonging to this Province, who were in the service of their country in the Narraganset war, or to their lawful representatives, as a reward for their public service; and is in full satisfaction of the grant formerly made them by the Great and General Court; forasmuch as it is the full intent and purpose of this Court, that every officer and soldier who served in said War, shall have a compensation made him over and above what wages and gratuities any of them have already received :

“That public notice shall be given in the News Letters, and advertisements be posted up in every town in the Province, notifying all persons that have served, and were in that fight, and the legal representatives of those deceased, that they give or send a list of their names and estates to this Court, at their next fall session; and when such list is completed by a Committee then to be appointed by this Court, the Grantees shall be obliged to assemble in as short a time as they can conveniently, not exceeding four months, and proceed to the choice of a Committee to regulate each propriety, who shall pass such orders and rules as will effectually oblige them to settle sixty families at least, in each township, with a learned orthodox minister, within the space of seven years, from the date of this grant : *Provided nevertheless*, if the said Grantees shall not effectually settle said number of families in each township, and also lay out a lot for said settled minister, one for the ministry, and one for the schools in each of said townships, they shall have

no advantage, but forfeit their said grants ; any thing to the contrary herein contained notwithstanding."

At the next session of the General Court, held in December, 1728, the Committee, by their Chairman, Major John Chandler, submitted a "plan describing a tract of land containing 23,286 acres, 2 roods and 10 perches, without allowing for the pond, which is supposed to contain at least 246 acres, 2 roods and 10 perches. The residue (being 23,040 acres) is the content of six miles square, and laid out in as regular a figure as the land would admit of, for one of the townships granted by the General Court at their session held May 29, 1728, to the Narraganset soldiers ; which land lies adjoining to the towns of Rutland and Lunenburg Additional Grant, (now Fitchburg,) and elsewhere by Province land."

Upon this Report it was resolved, "That the land protracted and described in the within plan, be and hereby is confirmed to the officers and soldiers who served in the Narraganset war."

The list of claimants increasing, the Legislature at its session in June, 1732, ordered that further townships be surveyed, so that 120 persons, whose claim shall be allowed within four months, shall be entitled to a township six miles square, under the aforementioned regulations and restrictions. Though the tract which now constitutes the town of Westminster, was surveyed, and by resolve granted to the Narraganset soldiers in 1728, it was not specifically confirmed to a particular company till 1732. Then it was resolved that this grant should belong to 120 persons, on condition that they should settle sixty families in seven years ; but this time was subsequently extended two years further.

A general meeting of the Grantees was held by adjournment on Boston Common, June 6, 1733. It was found that the whole number of Grantees amounted to 840 ; whereupon it was agreed that they be divided into seven separate societies, of 120 members each—this being the number fixed upon by the Legislature for a township. The Company which afterwards drew the township north of Wachusett, was composed of 17 Grantees from Cambridge, 33 from Charlestown, 27 from Watertown, 5 from Weston, 11 from Sudbury, 7 from Newton, 3 from Medford, 6 from Malden, and 10 from Reading.\* Of this number, only 19 were then

\* As this list shows, in part, who served in the Narraganset War, it may aid some inquirer by inserting the names. See Appendix A.



alive who had served in person, the other claimants were the heirs and representatives of those who perished in the war, or who had died subsequently. This Company organized by choosing John Cotting of Watertown, James Lowden of Charlestown, and Joseph Bowman of Lexington, a Committee to manage their affairs.

At a general meeting of the Narraganset Grantees, held at Boston, October 17, 1733, the townships were numbered ; and No. 1, on Saco River, was assigned to Philip Dane and Company, from Ipswich and vicinity. It is now known as the town of Buxton, Maine. After disposing of No. 1, they agreed to dispose of the others by lot ; but before casting lots, it was agreed that the Company which should draw No. 2, near Wachusett, should assign 500 acres to His Excellency Gov. Belcher, for his honored father's right. On casting lots, James Lowden, for the Company, from Cambridge, &c., received No. 2, north of Wachusett.\*

Thus far the Grantees of the different Companies met together, and transacted their business in common. But having formed separate Companies, and each received its own township, each Company, in future, transacted its own business without any reference to the others. The Proprietors of Narraganset No. 2, (for this was the name by which the township was known, till it was incorporated in 1769,) held their first meeting in Cambridge, December 3, 1733, and organized by choosing Joseph Bowman, Moderator, and William Willis of Medford, Clerk. At the same meeting they chose Joseph Bowman, then and for many years a prominent citizen of Lexington, John Cotting of Watertown, and James Lowden of Charlestown, a Prudential Committee. Subsequently, at an adjourned meeting, Benjamin Brown of Watertown, William Brattle of Cambridge, Benjamin Pemberton and Edward Jackson of Newton, John Hall of Medford, and Nathaniel Norcross of Weston, were admitted to the Committee.

At the same meeting they also made choice of a Committee to divide and lay out their lands. This meeting was adjourned to

\* No. 3, now Amherst, New Hampshire, but formerly known as Souhegan-West, was drawn by Richard Mower, for a Company from Salem and vicinity. No. 4, at Amuckeag, or Quabbin, was drawn by Edward Shove. No. 5, at Souhegan-East, now Bedford, New Hampshire, was drawn by Col. Thomas Tileston. No. 6, in the County of Worcester, now Templeton, was drawn by Samuel Chandler. The grant for this Company was at first in New Hampshire, but not liking the location, another grant was substituted, viz., what is now Templeton. No. 7, in Maine, was drawn by Col. Shubael Gorham.

the 17th, and then to the 24th of the same month. At these adjourned meetings, they agreed to lay out their lands in lots of sixty acres ; and the Dividing Committee was authorized and empowered to add to this quantity where the soil was poor, so as to equalize, as nearly as possible, the value of the lots. They were further directed to omit all meadows and cedar swamps, if any there were. At the same meetings, they authorized the Standing Committee to tax the shares, and to apply to the Legislature for any additional powers they might deem necessary, in the management of their affairs. The Proprietors did not meet again till July.

In the interim, however, the Standing Committee held several meetings at Capt. Bunker's in Charlestown. At their meeting, December 28th, they directed the Dividing Committee to "fix upon a place for house lots, His Excellency's farm, and a proper place for a meeting-house ; and then lay out land sufficient for a meeting-house, training-field, and a burying-ground, not exceeding ten acres ; then a lot for the first settled minister, a lot for the ministry, another for schools, and then lots for the Proprietors."

The place selected for the meeting-house was on the Hill, where the first two meeting-houses were erected. The Governor's farm was located southwesterly from the meeting-house lot, and contained 500 acres, and 20 acres for roads.\* It included the land on which Capt. Knower, Messrs. James, John, and Joseph Sawin, Mr. Aaron Darby, and Mr. Asa Holden, now reside.

In fixing upon house lots, the Committee first laid out the "town street," where it now runs, through the Village and over the Hill, and then laid out the lots in the form of a parallelogram, one hundred and sixty rods by sixty, with one end bounded on the street. This form was departed from, in a few instances, in the first range of lots, and very frequently in other cases. At the same meeting the Standing Committee, foreseeing that the seven years allowed to settle sixty families in the township, would expire before that number could be settled, agreed to petition the General Court for an extension of the time. An application was accordingly made, and in April, 1734, they obtained an extension of the time till June 1, 1741.

The Standing Committee met again January 21, 1734. At that

\* In laying out their lots, they generally specified a certain number of acres for roads, so that if their lands were subsequently taken to that amount, they were not entitled to any damage.

time no settlement was made, or house erected, in the township. The Committee contracted with Edward Jackson of Newton, and Zechariah Smith of Watertown, for ninety dollars, to "erect a house in the township, twenty-two feet long, sixteen feet wide, and seven feet studs, to be built of square timber, framed roof, covered with long shingles, and having a good stone chimney." This dwelling was erected early in the season of that year; for at their meeting in July, 1734, the Proprietors voted "that the house erected on lot No. 1, be for the use of the Proprietors for seven years, and after that shall belong to the person who shall own the lot." This was the first building erected in the township. It was built of square timbers, laid one upon another, after the manner of building log-houses. It was situated a little west of the present Baptist meeting-house, and was unoccupied, except occasionally by surveyors, committees, &c. who visited the township, till 1737, when it became, for a short time, the residence of Capt. Moore, the first settler in the town.

In July, 1734, the Proprietors met at Watertown, and voted that lot No. 8, be assigned to the first settled minister, and No. 95, be the ministerial lot. After disposing of these, they proceeded to draw their lots. These lots contained about sixty acres, and were called *First Division Lots*. The rest of the land remained undivided, and was owned in common by the Proprietors.

Though the Proprietors had several meetings, nothing of moment was transacted till, at their meeting in May, 1735, they contracted with Maj. William Brattle, of Cambridge, to build a good saw-mill in the township, and keep it in repair twenty years, in consideration of twelve acres of "meadow swamp," to be set off to him by the Proprietors; and the privilege of flowing all the meadows above his lot, from the last of September to the tenth of April, from year to year. This mill was erected and completed early in 1736. This was the second building erected in the town. It was located at the head of the "Narrows," where Mr. Wyman's dam now stands. The erection of this mill must have exerted a very considerable influence upon the early settlement of the place; as it afforded facilities for building, which were much needed in this wilderness. Timber was abundant, and with a mill to convert it into suitable forms for building, one of the great evils of a frontier settlement was overcome.

As yet no settlement had been made. The Proprietors were not

very desirous of leaving the comforts of civilized life, near the metropolis, and of settling in a wilderness, made vocal by the howling of wild beasts. At that time the whole township was a dense and almost impenetrable forest. Save the surveyors and a few land speculators who visited the place, these fields had never been traversed but by the roving savage. These rivulets which now contribute to works of art and to the comforts of civilized life, then meandered through the thickets or glided down their rocky beds unseen by the white man. The lofty pine and the stately hemlock bowed in the breeze and sang their mournful requiem to none but the red men of the forest. No wonder therefore, that our fathers were not over solicitous to take up their abode in a trackless waste, and to exile themselves from the comforts of life, and from the social and religious privileges of older settlements.

At their meeting in May, 1735, the Proprietors offered a bounty of forty dollars each to the first fifteen families which would settle in the township before the 30th of September, 1736. This proving ineffectual, at their meeting in June, 1736, the Proprietors offered a bounty of thirty-three dollars to each of the first sixty families, which would settle in the township within two years. At the same meeting, they levied a tax of sixteen dollars and sixty-seven cents upon each Proprietor, to enable them to hold out these inducements to settlers. The bounty above mentioned was offered on condition that each settler should enter into bonds to clear, fence, and prepare for cultivation, three acres of land, erect a framed house, and continue in the place a certain length of time; each family to settle on a separate lot. Though they required each settler to erect a framed house, it will not be considered a very extravagant demand, when it is known that the house need be only eighteen by sixteen feet—barely enough for one good-sized room. No settlement, however, was effected till the next spring.

We come now to the most difficult part of our narrative. To fix the dates at which the different families came to the place, is no easy task. Here the Proprietors' records afford us but little assistance. The settlement was not sufficiently early to be connected with scenes of Indian warfare, and so have the dates written in blood, in the annals of savage massacre; and, at the same time, it was so remote, that accurate records were not kept. Nor will the recollections of the oldest inhabitant reach back to the period when the first settlers came to the place. Some, and perhaps

most of the settlers who had families, were in the place a portion of one or two seasons before they removed their families. If, therefore, all the particulars were known, it would be difficult to say when certain persons became permanent inhabitants ; and it is more difficult now, when most of the facts are lost.

Captain FAIRBANKS MOORE, from Lancaster, was the first who removed his family into the place. He came to Narraganset in March, 1737. He at first took up his abode in the house erected by the Proprietors on lot No. 1. This, however, was not the lot on which Captain Moore settled. He simply took up his residence in the Proprietors' house, till he could erect a dwelling upon his own farm, which he did in the course of the season. It was a framed house, and was situated at the north-east end of the Pond, near the spot where Mr. Solon Raymond now resides. Here, if we may believe tradition, the first birth and the first death occurred—both children of Captain Moore. No record of this birth or death has been found ; but there is a rough stone in the old part of the burial ground, marked, "A. M. 1742," said to have been erected for Abner Moore, a lad twelve or fifteen years of age. This is undoubtedly the oldest stone in the yard. Captain Moore was an active and enterprising citizen. As early as 1740 or '41, he opened a public house, which was the first opened in the township.

He was engaged, like many others in his day, in land speculations. Nor did he confine his operations to Narraganset ; but extended them to the unsettled townships on Connecticut River. He left this place probably about 1746, and went to Fort Dummer, now Brattleborough, Vermont, where one of his sons had fixed his abode. While at that place, he was on a visit at his son's house, about two miles from the Fort, when the Indians attacked the house in the night time. Moore and his son fought desperately, but were overpowered by numbers, and both massacred.\*

\* Stephen Greenleaf, Esq., of Brattleborough, Vermont, in answer to a letter addressed to him on this subject in 1831, says : " In my early days I lived two years on a farm then called ' Arm's Meadows,' where the remains of Fairbanks Moore lie interred in the barn-yard. I have in recollection what Colonel John Sargeant (the first white person born in Vermont) many times repeated in my hearing, that Fairbanks Moore was on a visit at his son's house (something more than two miles from the then Fort Dummer) ; that while he was there, the house was beset by the Indians, and a bloody scene ensued ; that Moore and his son fought bravely, were overpowered and killed in the conflict, and eventually

Deacon JOSEPH HOLDEN was the second settler in the town. He came to the place in March, 1737, and commenced clearing his land. He soon returned to Watertown, and, on the 13th of June, he left that place for the wilds of Narraganset. He arrived at Lancaster the next day, where he left his wife and two young daughters, together with his son Abner, a lad fourteen years of age, while he and his son Joseph, then just of age, came on to the township, where they arrived, June 15th. His son Stephen, a young man of twenty, soon joined them, and they commenced erecting a house. We have already said that Captain Moore built him a house that season. The houses of Deacon Holden and of Captain Moore were both raised the same day, and were the first framed houses in the place. Deacon Holden's house was situated on or near the spot where Deacon Joel Merriam now resides, a few rods west of the Baptist meeting-house.

Having put his house in a comfortable condition, his wife and children came from Lancaster during the autumn, and took up their abode in this howling wilderness. On this lot Deacon Holden resided till his death, which occurred November 30, 1768, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. During his thirty-one years' residence in Narraganset, he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens. He was elected the first Deacon of the Church which was gathered in 1742, and filled various offices of honor and trust.

His son *Abner*, of whom we have already spoken, became one of the most popular and influential citizens in the town. Called early to public life, he became acquainted with public business, and, for a long series of years, sustained some of the most important offices in the gift of the people of the place. He filled the office of District and Town Clerk, served in the capacity of Selectman, and Delegate to the Provincial Congress, and was for years the principal Magistrate in the place. Some of these offices he sustained till the close of his life.

He married Elizabeth Darby, February 25, 1752. His children were, Joseph, born August 2, 1753 ; Ruth, born December 10, 1754 ; Elizabeth, born January 17, 1757 ; Relief, born October 18, 1758 ; Abner, born June 29, 1760 ; Phebe, born July 30, 1762 ;

buried in said barn-yard. The grave is monumented only with a solitary stone, placed horizontally upon it, unhewn and uninscribed, and is passed over as heedlessly by the trampling of feet and the rattling of wheels, as any other material in the cart's way."

Ezra, born December 5, 1764 ; Abigail, born April 25, 1767 ; and Lucy, born February 25, 1770.

It was the fortune of Abner Holden, Esq., to witness all the difficulties and dangers through which the infant settlement had to pass ; and to behold it at last permanently established, enjoying peace and prosperity. He died October 22, 1805, aged eighty-three, after a residence in the place fifty-eight years.

*Joseph Holden*, the oldest son of Deacon Joseph, came into the place with his father in 1737. He died unmarried, September 14, 1774. He filled almost every office of honor and trust in the District, the duties of which he fulfilled with fidelity, and died suddenly, greatly lamented, in the fifty-eighth year of his age.

*Stephen Holden*, the second son of the Deacon, and who came into the place the same season, settled on the lot where Mr. Jonas Cutler now resides. His wife's name was Abigail, by whom he had Samuel, born January 1, 1752, died June 8, 1788 ; Stephen, born May 16, 1755 ; Abigail, born March 23, 1757 ; Elias, born May 28, 1758 ; Levi, born December 2, 1762 ; Elizabeth, born October 30, 1766. Stephen Holden died September 15, 1794, aged seventy-six.

Deacon Holden's family consisted of himself and wife, three sons, and two daughters ; Captain Moore's, of himself and wife, and six children. These two families, consisting of fifteen persons, were the first to take up their abode in this desert. Here they spent their first winter, without any other family in the township. It is impossible for us to enter into the feelings which must have actuated the first settlers. The prospect of converting a wilderness into a fruitful field, and making the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose, must have cheered and gladdened their hearts. But, on the other hand, dangers were to be encountered, and hardships were to be endured. Exiled from the abodes of civilized men, they found themselves joint-tenants of the forest with savages and wild beasts. When the settlement first commenced, there were no inhabitants within twelve or fifteen miles. Rutland and Lunenburg were the nearest settlements, and these were about twelve miles distant, through a trackless wilderness. Lancaster, though fifteen or sixteen miles distant from Narraganset, may be considered the nearest settlement ; for it was through this place that all the early settlers came, and to Lancaster they resorted for those necessaries of life which the wilderness did not afford them. One of the early

settlers\* thus describes the condition of the place, and its first inhabitants :

“ A howling wilderness it was, where no man dwelt ; the hideous yells of wolves, the shrieks of owls, the gobbling of turkeys, and the barking of foxes, was all the music we enjoyed ; no friend to visit, no soul in the adjoining towns—all a dreary waste, exposed to a thousand difficulties.”

In addition to the privations and hardships mentioned above, the winter of 1738-9 was unusually severe, but less so than the one that followed. The snow, during both of these winters, was at least four feet deep, for months in succession. No winters, during the past century, save the memorable winter of 1779-80, can compare with them for depth of snow and severity of cold. Thus cut off from the mill at Lancaster, to which place they usually carried their grain, the inhabitants were reduced to the necessity of adopting the Indian custom of pounding their grain in a mortar. Bread prepared in this manner, and game from the forest, constituted their principal food during the long, inclement season ; and of this the quantity was small, and the supply scanty. Such, and many other privations, difficulties and dangers, beset the early settlers of the place—privations and difficulties from which the poorest and most destitute at this day are exempt.

Deacon Joseph Holden being the first permanent resident in Narraganset, and his family the most controlling and influential for half a century, it seems proper to give a more detailed account of the family.

JUSTINIAN HOLDEN embarked at Ipswich, England, for America, in April, 1634. He was one of the Proprietors of Watertown, in 1642, and was made a freeman, May 6, 1657. In 1653, then of Watertown, he purchased a farm in Cambridge, consisting of two hundred and ninety-four acres, with a dwelling-house and barn upon the same, bounded by Fresh Pond and the Watertown line. His wife died 1672, without issue, and he married Mary, daughter of John Rutter, of Sudbury, who was born in 1647, and was thirty-four years younger than himself. By his second wife he had four sons and three daughters.

Joseph, his youngest son, was born September 6, 1683, when his father was seventy years of age. Joseph, the early settler in Westminster, was consequently of the first generation of Holdens,

\* Abner Holden, Esq.



born in this country. He married, February 17, 1714, Abigail Shattuck, and had Joseph, born June 30, 1716; Stephen, born October 21, 1717; Abigail, born October 19, 1719; Abner, born November 2, 1722; Jonathan, born June 6, 1725; and Elizabeth, baptized April 26, 1730. He resided in Watertown, where he was a Constable, in 1732, and from this place came to Narraganset, as before stated.

The Holdens were not only a prominent and numerous family, but by intermarriages became connected with most of the other families in the place.

When the settlement was commenced, there was not even a "marked road" to the township. The first families wended their way from Lancaster, through the trackless desert, to Narraganset No. 2, as best they could. But in November of 1737, the Proprietors, at their meeting in Cambridge, chose a Committee, of which Joseph Holden was one, to look out and mark a road from Lancaster to Narraganset No. 2, and through said township to the Meeting-house Lot; the said road to be laid out and mended, where it will best accommodate the whole town. This road was located over Gerry Hill, in the northerly part of Sterling, and continued to be the main traveled road to Lancaster and Boston for a great number of years. At the same meeting, it was agreed that a meeting-house in the township should be commenced the next season.

In 1738, PHILIP BEMIS, of Cambridge, removed his family to the township. He was the third settler in the plantation. He located himself on what is now known as the old Turnpike, below the burying-yard, near where Mr. Benjamin F. Battles now resides. His family consisted of six or seven persons, among which was an infant, by the name of Daniel Muntjoy, who died in 1835, in the one hundredth year of his age. We find no record of Philip Bemis's family. It is supposed, however, that William Bemis, who married first, Rosiner, and second, Abigail Annis, and who died November 8, 1801, aged seventy-five, was one of his sons who came with him to No. 2; and that Captain Edmund Bemis, who commanded a Company in the Revolutionary service, was another son of Philip. Captain Edmund married, 1760, Elizabeth Rand, and had Elijah, Edmund, Samuel, Ebenezer, and three daughters. He died December 1, 1807, aged seventy-five years. David Bemis was also a son of Philip.

THOMAS BEMIS came to Narraganset soon after his brother Philip, and settled on or near the spot where Mr. Timothy Brown now resides. His family consisted only of himself and wife, who died 1798, aged one hundred years. Anna, their first child, born April 22, 1741, if we may believe tradition, was the first *female* child born in No. 2. She married John Estabrook, at the age of fifteen, was the mother of *fourteen* children, and died February 26, 1832, aged ninety-two. The Bemises were probably the descendants of Joseph Bemis, of Cambridge, who served in the Narraganset war. The Bemises in Westminster were at one time quite numerous, and by marriage became connected with many other families.

During the same year, the Proprietors were taking measures to settle the township. At a meeting held January, 1738, they agreed to divide their meadow lands, which were omitted in the first division. The Proprietors met again in September. At this time four families had settled on the plantation, and the building of the Meeting-house would naturally call people to the place, temporarily at least. To meet their wants, and to induce others to settle, the Proprietors, at this meeting, granted one hundred dollars for the support of the Gospel in the township. In December, of the same year, another hundred dollars was added; and the sum of two hundred dollars a year was continued, till a clergyman was settled among them.

June 6, 1739, the Proprietors met for the first time in the township. The Meeting-house being completed on the outside, it was that day publicly dedicated. The sermon was preached by Rev. Isaac Richardson, of Woburn, from Haggai ii. 9. This house was forty-five feet long and thirty-five feet wide, with twenty feet posts. It was situated on the Meeting-house Lot on the Hill, which is still kept open as a Public Common. This lot was at first laid out in a square form, and contained about six acres. It has since been reduced to nearly three acres. This house stood a few feet in front of the house which succeeded it, and remained till the erection of the new house in 1788, when it was moved off, and converted into a barn, by Mr. Rice, then the pastor of the Parish. In this humble capacity, the old church stood till about 1837, when Mr. Abraham Wood, who had succeeded to the estate, being desirous of a more commodious barn, demolished the old Meeting-house. But even then, out of respect to its past services, and the

soundness of the frame, a portion of the large timbers were used in the new frame, where they bid fair to remain another generation, and will perhaps complete their second century.

In 1740, THOMAS STEARNS, from Watertown, came to the township, and located himself at or near where Mr. Job Seaver now resides. He was a descendant of the second generation from Isaac Stearns, who came to America in 1630, in the same ship with Governor Winthrop and Sir Richard Saltonstall, and settled in Watertown. Thomas was a son of John Stearns, of Watertown, and was born October 8, 1711. He married after he came to Narraganset, August 9, 1744, Hannah Clarke, of Newton. He died April 29, 1785, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. He was a man of character and standing in the town and church, being a Deacon in the church, and filling important offices in the town. He was a brother of Rev. David Stearns, of Lunenburg.

The Proprietors, at a meeting in September, 1740, granted thirty-three dollars to make and mend the roads in the township. At the same meeting they contracted with Mr. Seth Walker, to build a Grist Mill. This mill was situated at the outlet of Westminster Pond, where Mr. Walker fixed his residence.

The subject of a Corn Mill had been agitated by the Proprietors, for two or three years, but not till this time was any efficient measure adopted to create this necessary appendage to every settlement. This mill was erected the following year, and of course was the first building of the kind in the township. The erection of this mill would obviate one great objection to settling in the place, as it furnished the means of preparing food, both for man and beast.

Captain DANIEL HOAR may be considered as the next settler. We find him in the place as early as 1739, employed on a Committee for building a Grist Mill. But it is probable it was not till the latter end of the next year, or the commencement of 1741, that he became a permanent resident in No. 2. He first commenced on a lot in the southerly part of the town, and built him a cabin on the margin of "Beaver Swamp," so called, about one hundred rods southerly of the present residence of Mr. Jonas Miller. But being dissatisfied with the location, he left that lot, and commenced permanently on the lot where Allen's tavern-house now stands. He erected a house on the north-westerly part of the lot, near the present burial ground. Here he remained till his death, which occurred December 4, 1782. The Hoar family of Massachusetts,

dates back to the early settlement of the Colony. According to tradition, the ancestor of this family came over early, and died at Boston, soon after his arrival, leaving among other children, John, who resided first at Scituate, and afterward at Concord, where he died, 1704, leaving two daughters and a son, Daniel, born 1650. Daniel married and reared a numerous family, among whom was a son bearing his own name. This latter Daniel, born 1680, married Sarah Jones, December 20, 1705. He resided in Concord, where he died February 8, 1773. His second son, Jonathan, was graduated at Harvard College, 1740, was an officer in the French and Indian wars, and after the peace of 1763, went to England, and was appointed Governor of Newfoundland and the neighboring Province, but died on his passage thither. Daniel, his third son, entered Harvard College, 1730, but did not graduate. He came to Narragansett, as we have already said, in 1740 or '41. He married, November 2, 1743, Rebecca Brooks, of Concord, and had Daniel, born October 19, 1744, and died in his twentieth year; Sarah, born January 5, 1749; Rebecca, born June 23, 1754; Stephen Brooks, born July 15, 1758; Charles, born September 5, 1761, died young; Samuel, born August 24, 1763, married Deborah Bigelow, and had Daniel, George A., Samuel, Francis A., and Charles B. Charles B., who has taken the name of Hoard, resides at Watertown, New York, and represents that District in Congress. As Daniel Hoar was one of the first settlers, so he became one of the first citizens, of Westminster. He was one of the Selectmen on the incorporation of the District, to which office he was often re-elected. He filled other civil offices, and was honored with the command of a Company of Militia, when that post implied more than it does at present.

SETH WALKER became an inhabitant of the place in 1741. He had been in the township the preceding year, and had contracted to build the mill of which we have before spoken. Mr. Walker's dwelling was near the present residence of Mr. John K. Larnard. He was from Sudbury.

If we place Deacon JOSEPH MILLER, next in order of time among the settlers, it cannot be far from the truth. He came from Newton. He was a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Child) Miller, and was born July 29, 1716. His father was Selectman in Newton, 1743, and died in Worcester, 1759, aged eighty-one. In 1740, Joseph Miller purchased his land, and the same year we find him

in the township. He probably married about the time he came to Narraganset. By his wife Mary, he had eleven children: viz. Joseph, born July 27, 1741; Mary, born March 16, 1743; Ephraim, born September 16, 1744; Martha, born September 11, 1746; David, born August 8, 1748; John, born August, and died August 8, 1750; Samuel, born July 20, 1751; Isaac, born March 31, 1754; Esther, born March 9, 1756; Elizabeth, born March 16, 1758; John, born September 22, 1762. Esther died October 17, 1850, at the advanced age of ninety-four years, four months and three days.

He fixed his residence a little in the rear of the present residence of Mr. Jonas Miller, his great-grandson. He was chosen one of the Deacons, at the first organization of the church in 1742, and became one of the most prominent citizens, both in the district and in the town. He performed a good deal of public business, and his papers, many of which were preserved, show that he did business carefully and correctly. Under the district organization, he was chosen Clerk, Assessor and Treasurer, and for many years, both under the district and town organizations, he served on the board of Selectmen. In the trying days of the Revolution, when the people would naturally fall back upon their most reliable men, Deacon Miller was called to act as Selectman, Treasurer, and Representative. Deacon Miller's descendants in Westminster, have been numerous. His son Joseph, married Lucy Walker, and had James, John, Isaac, Joseph, and four daughters. Ephraim married Beulah Wheeler, and had Asa, Ezra, John, and three daughters. Samuel married Lydia Cutting, and had Joseph, Samuel, John C., David, Aumas, and two daughters. Isaac married Sarah Bennett, and had Joseph, Isaac, Benjamin, and three daughters.

JOSEPH LYNDE, from Malden, was another of the early settlers. He came to the place in 1741, and fixed his residence about one hundred rods from the Common. The remains of the cellar are still to be seen, on the north side of the road, half way from the Common to the residence of Mr. Horatio Eagar.

BENJAMIN GARFIELD, from Waltham, came to No. 2, in 1741, and commenced on the lot where widow Maria Baker now lives. He cleared the land in some degree, and erected a house and barn. In January, 1743, he sold his lot, with the buildings thereon, to RICHARD GRAVES, then of Sudbury. Mr. Graves moved to the

township in the spring of that year, and was of course one of the early settlers. He married and had one child, before he came to Narraganset. His wife's name was Patience. His children were Patience, born in Sudbury, June 9, 1742; Lucy, born September 7, 1743; Peter, born November 25, 1745; Priscilla, born March 9, 1748; Richard, born April 17, 1750; Jonathan, born July 2, 1752; Levi, born July 11, 1754; and Abigail, born November 17, 1756. Richard Graves became an influential citizen, filled several important town offices, and was dignified with the title of Ensign. He died March 28, 1798, aged eighty-eight; and his wife died February 1, 1800, aged eighty-seven. Benjamin Garfield, the first owner of the lot, remained in the place, and filled many subordinate town offices.

We cannot arrange the families in the exact order in which they settled, but will do it as far as it is practicable. In June, 1742, ELIEZER BIGELOW moved his family to Narraganset, and settled on the lot, on which the late John Bigelow resided,—though his house was sixty or seventy rods westerly of the residence of John, his grandson. He was a son of Joshua Bigelow, of Watertown, who was wounded in King Philip's war. Joshua was a son of John Bigelow, of Watertown, who was early in that place, and was the ancestor of most of the name in New England. Joshua Bigelow was the only soldier who served in the Narraganset war, that ever settled on the grant. He died February 21, 1745, and is said to have been the first adult person who died in the township.

Eliezer Bigelow married, November 24, 1724, Mary Fiske, of Watertown, by whom he had seven children, all born before he came to Narraganset. His sons were *Benjamin*, born October 13, 1726, who moved to Portsmouth; *Elisha*, born January 11, 1728, married, 1757, Sarah Cooledge, and had Ephraim, Elisha, and Abijah, and three daughters; Abijah graduated at Dartmouth College, 1795, studied law, settled in Worcester, was Clerk of the Court, and represented the District in Congress; he is still living, in his eighty-fifth year. *Joshua*, born April 12, 1733, moved to Genesee; and *Jabez*, born December 19, 1736, married 1761, Deborah Knowlton, of Shrewsbury, and had eight sons—John, born June 27, 1762; Jabez, born March 26, 1764; Benjamin, born August 6, 1765; Abraham, born December 21, 1768; Ezekiel, born April 4, 1772; Luke, born April 26, 1774,

still living ; Reuben, born November 22, 1775 ; and Asa, born August 19, 1779.

Eliezer Bigelow, the first settler, died February 24, 1762, aged fifty-seven years. His descendants became numerous and influential in Westminster.

The Bigelows, or *Baguleys*, as they were originally called, (taking the name of the place where they resided,) were an ancient family in England, and have been traced back to the reign of Henry III., when Richard was lord of Baguley. In the reign of Henry VII., Ralph de Baguley was lord of Ollerton Hall, and died 1540, leaving Randall and Nicholas. Randall died 1556, and his sons, Philip and Robert, divided his estate. Robert died 1582, leaving Randall and John, both of whom moved to Suffolk. Randall died 1626, leaving two sons, Francis and John. Francis died 1657, and gave by will a portion of his property to his brother John, then in New England. John was baptized in England, February 16, 1617 ; he came early to Watertown, where he married, October 30, 1642, Mary Warren, also born in England. He was father of Joshua, who was born November 5, 1655. The name in Watertown Records, is variously written, *Bigulah*, *Biglo*, and *Biglow*.

In 1741, or '42, SAMUEL WHITNEY, from Weston, came to the place and located himself near the present residence of Mr. Hartwell,—the old cellar is still visible. He was a son of William Whitney, of Weston, and descended from John Whitney, who came from England to this country in 1635, and settled in Watertown. Samuel Whitney, the early settler in Narraganset, was born May 23, 1719, and married, October 20, 1741, Abigail Fletcher. He came to this place about the time of his marriage, and like most of the early settlers, had a large family of children. His children numbered thirteen : *Abigail*, born August 27, 1742 ; *Mary*, born May 29, 1744 ; *Samuel*, born February 11, 1746, married 1783 to Mrs. Thankful Wilder, and had Plyney, Smyrna, and Moses ; *Abner*, born May 18, 1748, married first, May 14, 1770, Elizabeth Glazier, and had Oliver, John and Levi ; married second, Lovina Ward, and had Jonas, Joseph, Abel, and two daughters ; *Achsa*, born September 30, 1750 ; *Silas*, born October 20, 1752 ; *Martha*, born November 26, 1755 ; *Elisha*, born July 2, 1757, married, 1781, Eunice Seaver, and had Joseph and Norman S., and four daughters ; *Alpheus*, born February 25, 1759 ; *Phinehas*, born

January 16, 1761, married, 1788, Elizabeth Rand, and had John and Thomas, and three daughters; *Hannah*, born December 18, 1762; *Martha*, born September 18, 1764; *Susanna*, born February 9, 1767.

Lieutenant Samuel Whitney not only contributed his full share to people the town, but he filled some of the first offices in the place—being Selectman, &c. a number of years. He died January 1, 1782, aged sixty-three.

About the same time (1742) JOHN HADLEY came to Narragansett, and settled on lot No. 5. His house was situated a little north of Mrs. Esty's barn. He was probably the ancestor of the Hadleys which were afterwards in Westminster.

WILLIAM BALDWIN settled on lot No. 14. His residence was a few rods south of Mr. Horatio Eagar's.

DAVID DUNSTER, of Cambridge, settled about the same time. He was a descendant of Henry Dunster, the first President of Harvard College, but the family was never prominent in this place, and they have left a very imperfect record.

SAMUEL SMITH was in the place before 1745, but, like his namesake *John*, is not easily traced.

About the same time DANIEL WALKER, of Sudbury, became a settler, and fixed his residence where Mr. Isaac Seaver now resides. He had a wife and two children. His wife, who was a sister of Deacon Nathan Wood, and one child, died in 1756; and he died the year following.

JOSEPH HORSLEY was an early settler. He had a wife, and four sons and three daughters, born between 1745 and 1761.

ISAAC STEDMAN was also an early settler. By his wife, Huldah, he had nine children, born between 1738 and 1756, seven of which died before 1764. He died 1757. Of the last five settlers, but little is known.

The seven years allowed in the grant for settling sixty families, expired June 1, 1741, when not one sixth of that number had settled. The Proprietors, fearing that they should be deprived of the grant, met at Cambridge, the day following, and levied a tax of thirty-three dollars upon each share, to enable them to offer a generous bounty to settlers. At this meeting they raised the bounty to ninety-eight dollars, and allowed the same to those who had already settled. This bounty was at first offered to those who should settle in one year, but was subsequently extended to ten years.



The settlers, on the fourth of August, 1742, made choice of Mr. Elisha Marsh for their minister. This choice was concurred in by the Proprietors, in September of the same year. They fixed his salary at one hundred and fifty dollars, in addition to the land to which he was entitled by the grant. On the 20th of October, 1742, Rev. Mr. Marsh was publicly ordained to the work of the ministry in this place. One of the first settlers,\* in a family record, with which we have been favored, says : " After the ordination of Mr. Marsh, the church proceeded to organize itself, and chose Joseph Holden first, and Joseph Miller second Deacon, who served in their offices till death put an end to their services."

Mr. Marsh appears to have been a man of considerable talent, but of much eccentricity of character, not comporting with what was then regarded as ministerial dignity. Soon after his settlement, an unpleasant controversy arose between him and his people, which ended in his dismissal, in 1757. During a large part of this period, their relations were any thing but happy. His conduct and sayings were laid before the Association, and before Councils, which were induced at last to sunder the ties which bound him to the Parish. Some of these charges were characteristic of the times. One of them was for "stumping one of his church members to swop powder-horn strings with him." It was also thought that he was heretical ; and hence he was arraigned for being unsound in the faith. We find the following charges preferred against him :

"For saying, that obedience is the condition of salvation."

"For saying, that he would as soon worship the devil, as worship such a being as requires more of his creatures than they are able to perform ; and for saying, in the presence of the church, that he did not worship such a being ; for it was the devil which required more of his creatures than they were able to perform."

"For saying, that if all that was required of a man, was to believe, then the condition of salvation was easy and pleasant to fools."

Whether they failed to prove these serious charges, or whether the Association at Lancaster, before which they were brought, failed to see heresy in them, is uncertain ; but one thing is sure ; they did not dismiss him in 1747, when these charges were preferred.

After Mr. Marsh was dismissed from his pastoral office, he re-

\* Abner Holden, Esq.

mained some years in the township, and filled several secular offices. He at length removed to Cheshire County, New Hampshire, and became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He died in Lancaster, when on a journey.

From the first settlement of the township, some fears were apprehended from the Indians, who, in small numbers, were occasionally seen lurking about the place. But it was not till 1742, or '43, that they gave the settlers much uneasiness. Instigated by the French, in Canada, these children of the forest began to assume a hostile attitude. About 1743, the General Court granted thirteen hundred dollars to enable the settlers to erect such fortifications as would secure them against the savages. Ten forts were accordingly erected. These were placed around the dwellings, in different parts of the town, so as to secure, if not every dwelling, at least every neighborhood. They were constructed of wood—some of them of square timbers, laid one upon another, after the manner of a log house, and locked together at the angles; and others were built with stockades, that is, with timbers standing perpendicularly, with one end planted in the earth.

The fortifications, or garrisons, as they were generally called, were distributed about the town as follows: One inclosed Captain Hoar's dwelling; one the house of Rev. Mr. Marsh, which was a few rods easterly from the present residence of Mr. George Gibbs; one at Deacon Holden's; one at Richard Graves's; one at Seth Walker's; one at Deacon Miller's; one at Thomas Stearns's; one at Philip Bemis's; one at the place now known as the Wiswall place, then owned by Samuel Hagar, and occupied by a tenant by the name of Flagg; and one at the house of Joseph Gibbs, who came early into the town from Sudbury, and located himself in the south-easterly part of the town, about half a mile easterly of the house now occupied by Mr. Wheeler Benjamin. Besides these, there were a few temporary forts, in other parts of the town, some to guard dwellings, and some for the protection of laborers, when at work far from their houses.

A few soldiers were sent by the government, and a portion of the inhabitants were put under pay as a town scout. A sentinel was posted at each fort in the night time, and the soldiers alternately patrolled the township by day, whenever the enemy were supposed to be lurking within their borders. From 1744 to 1749, the settlers experienced many discouragements. Savages were fre-

quently seen prowling about in the woods. At night, the inhabitants repaired to the garrisons for safety, leaving their own dwellings to the mercy of the savage foe. By day, the laborers repaired to their fields with their muskets, to guard themselves against the insidious savage who might ambush their path.

It is impossible for us, at this day, to enter fully into the feelings of people thus circumstanced. If immediate destruction, or what is worse, a death by torture, or hopeless captivity, did not actually take place, it was constantly haunting their imaginations. Painful indeed must be the situation, where the laborer is liable to be captured in the field, and his family massacred and scalped in his absence; and where the hours of darkness and repose may invite the enemy, and his slumbers may be broken by the sound of the war-whoop, and the darkness of night be dispelled by the blaze of his dwelling.

But although the savages gave the settlers much anxiety, no one ever fell a prey to the merciless enemy, nor were any battles ever fought between them. The only well authenticated incident that has come to my knowledge, occurred in 1748 or '49. William Bowman, from Lexington, who had been in the township five or six years, and who garrisoned, if not resided, with Captain Hoar, was one day mowing in the field, near the present residence of Mr. George Miles, when he discovered some Indians in the adjoining woods. They had placed themselves in such a position as to cut him off from his fort, and no doubt felt sure of their victim. Bowman very adroitly concealed his agitation of mind, and as though he had made no discovery of the enemy, kept at work, but moving at the same time from his fort and his insidious enemy, until he had gained the declivity of the hill, when he dropped his scythe, and made for Graves's fort with such speed as to elude the grasp of his fleet-footed pursuers. When he arrived at Graves's fort, an alarm was immediately fired, which was answered through the settlement, and called every man to his post. The alarm being given, messengers were dispatched, which brought troops from Lancaster and Rutland.

The savages, finding that they were discovered, and that preparation was making to give them a warm reception, quietly and stealthily left the place, and so permitted the troops to return to their quarters, and the citizens to their employment. Bowman, soon after this occurrence, left the place, having no desire to continue

his hand with adversaries trained to every art of guile, and every method of torture. This was one of the last incursions of the savages. A treaty of peace between France and England, in October, 1748, gave rest to the infant settlement. And though the war was renewed in 1754, there was but little apprehension from the Indians during this last war—the field of action being for the most part transferred to the Lakes and the borders of Canada, where the Indians acted under the direction of the French officers. There were a few incursions into some of the towns on the north, but I find no account of their having penetrated as far as Westminster. On the contrary, some of the citizens of the district were detailed for the frontier, and served at the Lakes, as we shall have occasion to mention hereafter.

From 1743 to 1749, the settlement went on slowly. Though a bounty of about one hundred dollars was offered by the Proprietors, only about nineteen families had settled at the beginning of 1750 ; and of these, most had settled before 1743. There were but few who came to the place while apprehensions were entertained of attacks from the Indians.

In 1745 or '46, Joshua Child, from Waltham, came to the place, and located himself on the farm where Captain Harrington now lives. In 1750, the meetings of the Proprietors were transferred to the township, where they were ever afterward held. At their first meeting, Andrew Darby, then of the place, was chosen Proprietor's Clerk—an office which he held for years.

The halcyon days of peace gave a new spring to their affairs, and the settlement went on with considerable rapidity. In 1750, as near as can be estimated, the population was a little short of one hundred souls. In a petition presented to the Legislature, in 1759, they say they have nearly sixty families. From a full view of the subject, it is highly probable that the population in 1760 would not vary materially from three hundred. Hence there must have been a considerable accession to the settlers during this decennial period.

I shall not attempt to state the order in which they came to the place, but will mention some of the principal families. I cannot better enumerate the substantial men of the district in 1759, than to give the names of the citizens who petitioned for the incorporation, together with those who constituted the first jury. These were the prominent citizens who figured through the Revolution-

ary period, and who gave tone and character to the place ; and the descendants of these families constitute a considerable proportion of the population of Westminster at this day. The petitioners are as follows :

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Abner Holden,*    | Samuel Whitney,     |
| John Wheeler,     | Andrew Darby,       |
| John Brooks,*     | Elijah Gibbs,       |
| Richard Baker,*   | Nathan Wood,*       |
| Daniel Walker,*   | John Stearns,       |
| Nathan Whitney,*  | Joseph Holden, Jr., |
| Jonas Whitney,*   | William Edgell,*    |
| Nathan Poore,     | Richard Graves,     |
| Seth Harrington,* | Joshua Bigelow,     |
| James Cowee,      | Josiah Jackson,     |
| John Rand,*       | John Woodward,*     |
| Joseph Holden,    | Josiah Cutting,*    |
| Thomas Stearns,*  | James Winship,*     |
| David Bemis,      | Ebenezer Taylor,    |
| Joseph Miller,    | Nathaniel Wheeler,  |
| James Taylor,     | Benjamin Horsley.   |

If we add to this list those who were selected in 1760 to fill the first jury-box, we shall have a list of the principal men in the district at that time. Those petitioners whose names are marked with a star, (\*) and the following gentlemen, comprise that list. Thomas Conant, Nicholas Dike, James Walker, Reuben Miles, John Miles, Noah Miles, Philip Bemis, Benjamin Butterfield, Stephen Holden, Elisha Bigelow, William Bemis, John Estabrook.

ANDREW DARBY, who was several years Selectman and Clerk, under the district organization, came from Acton, about 1749 or '50. He was probably the father of *Andrew Darby, Jr.*, who married, December 20, 1763, Elizabeth Sawin, and had Abijah, Isaac, Asaph, Aaron, Moses, and three daughters, born before 1787 ; and of *John Darby*, who married, May 1, 1766, Hannah Garey, of Lancaster, and had William, John, Joseph, Abel, Andrew, and two daughters, and died 1818 ; and of *Nathan Darby*, who married, March 30, 1762, Abigail Pierce, of Lexington, and had Jonas, Ezra, Joel, Abraham, Levi, and six daughters. Andrew Darby was probably the ancestor of all the Darbys in Westminster. He died March 23, 1783, in his seventy-seventh year.

JOSIAH CUTTING came to No. 2 from Waltham, where he married, March 27, 1755, Lydia Merriam, of Lexington. He was

married as "of Narraganset." They had John, Josiah, Nathan, Asa, Abraham, and three daughters. Abraham Cutting married Phebe Howard, and settled in Princeton, where he died. His sons returned to Westminster, and settled. Among them was Flavel, who was a practicing physician in the place for more than twenty years.

There were several families of Mileses, who settled in Westminster before 1759. They came from Concord. John Miles was in Concord as early as 1640. He had two sons, John and Samuel. John married Mary Prescott, and had among other children, John, who married Elizabeth Brooks, and had John, Noah, and Abner, all of whom settled in Narraganset.

JOHN MILES, born 1727, married Martha Warren, a widow, and had Levi, John, Isaac, Thomas, and two daughters. He was a surveyor, and was often in public office. He died April 30, 1808, aged eighty-one. She died April 26, 1808, aged eighty-three. Their son John, born in 1765, was for many years a settled clergyman in Grafton, and the father of Rev. Henry A. Miles, D. D., of Boston.

Captain NOAH MILES, by his wife Huldah, had Noah, Stephen, Joel, Ephraim, and Oliver. He died October 21, 1811, aged eighty-one; and she died March 10, 1809, aged eighty.

ABNER MILES married, 1769, Margaret Trowbridge, of Newton, and had Trowbridge, and three daughters. He died of small pox, July 23, 1778.

REUBEN MILES, though from the same stock, was of another family. We have already said that John Miles, the original settler in Concord, had two sons, John and Samuel. Samuel married, 1706, Sarah Foster, of Littleton, and had among other children, Reuben, who settled in Westminster, and by his wife, Anne Rice, had Nathan, Reuben, Jonas, Asa, and five daughters. Asa, born July 11, 1760, graduated at Dartmouth College, studied medicine, and married Elizabeth C. Rice, daughter of Rev. Asaph Rice, of Westminster. Dr. Miles practiced in this town. His wife died 1796, and he married Ruth Henshaw, of Leicester, February 14, 1804. He died April, 1805, in his forty-fifth year, and his widow married, in 1806, Rev. Ezekiel L. Bascom, of Phillipston. Dr. Miles had but one child, Clough Rice, born May 31, 1796. He graduated at Harvard College in 1817, read law, and established himself at Millbury, where he now resides.

The Mileses in town were quite numerous and influential, for a long period.

Deacon NATHAN WOOD came into the place in June, 1756. His ancestor, William Wood, emigrated from England, 1638, and settled at Concord. He died 1671, leaving an only son, Michael, who died three years after his father; and left, among other sons, Abraham, who removed into Sudbury, where he died in 1742 or '47.\* He had Samuel, Cornelius, Hannah who married Daniel Walker and settled in Narraganset, Rebecca, Ruth, Abigail who married Deacon James Walker and settled in Narraganset, and Nathan. Nathan, the youngest son of Abraham, was born in Concord, March 24, 1723, where his father resided till about 1729, when he removed to Sudbury. Nathan Wood, then of Sudbury, married, March 2, 1750, Rebecca, daughter of Abijah Haynes, of that place. Soon after his marriage, he settled at Stow, where he resided till 1756, when he removed to this place with his family, consisting at that time, of one daughter and three sons. He had fifteen children, all of whom were living at the time of his death, June 17, 1777, and able to follow him to the grave. After his death, in his fifty-fifth year, his widow married Nathan Howard, with whom she lived more than forty years, and died March 20, 1819, aged eighty-seven. The size, longevity and prominence of this family, will justify the following full account of them.

1. Lucy, born April 10, 1751; married, January 6, 1774, Benjamin Barnard, and died, aged 98.

2. Nathan, born November 7, 1752; was twice married, and died January 1, 1841, aged 88.

3. Abijah, born February 15, 1754; was twice married, had eleven children, and died July 24, 1840, aged 86.

4. Abel, born December 27, 1755; married, November 21, 1780, Phebe Holden, and had nine children. He was a prominent citizen, filled various town offices, and was many years a Justice of the Peace. He died March 23, 1846, aged 90.

5. Rebecca, born December 5, 1757; married, December 26, 1780, Levi Graves, and died May 8, 1795, aged 37.

6. Hannah, born April 4, 1759; married, 1780, Stephen Hoar, and died October 24, 1831, aged 72.

7. Samuel, born January 26, 1761; died October 28, 1828, aged 67.

\* There were two Abraham Woods, that died in Sudbury; one in 1712, and the other in 1747.

8. Moses, } born October 18, 1763, drowned December 11,  
          } twins, 1777, aged 15.
9. Aaron, } born October 19, 1763, died July 4, 1815, aged 53.
10. Abraham, born August 2, 1764; died December 8, 1812, aged 48.
11. Israel, born March 15, 1766, died September 26, 1846, aged 80.
12. Ruth, born June 1, 1768, died February 2, 1820, aged 52.
13. Abigail, born June 9, 1770, now living and insane, aged 90.
14. Ezekiel, born November 25, 1772; died May 30, 1812, aged 40.
15. Nahum, born April 5, 1776; died July 3, 1825, aged 49.

This family, remarkable for numbers, were also remarkable for age. The aggregate age of the family, including the parents, is 1,106 years. The Wood family have been one of the most influential and popular in the place, both in church and state.

JOHN ESTABROOK was in Narraganset in 1755. He married about that time, and by his wife, Anna Bemis, who died in Westminster, 1832, aged ninety-two, he had fourteen children; John, Joseph, Isaac, Samuel (killed by lightning), Thomas, Joseph, Isaac, Samuel, and six daughters. Their first Joseph and Isaac died in 1772. John was the ancestor of the Westminster Estabrooks. The original emigrant, Joseph Estabrook, came to the country in 1660, was settled as a clergyman in Concord, 1667. His son Joseph settled in Hingham, and removed to Lexington about 1709. He had a son John, born 1690, who married Prudence Harrington. John, who settled in Westminster, was their oldest son, and was born October 20, 1729.

JOHN RAND was in Narraganset in 1753. His first wife, Elizabeth, died December 14, 1756, and he married, 1766, widow Tabitha Stedman. He had Zachariah, John, Thomas, William, Samuel, and four daughters. He was the ancestor of those of the name in Westminster. He sustained important town offices, and rose to the rank of Colonel in the militia. He also served as Colonel in the Revolution. He died December 11, 1789, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. The stone erected to his first wife and two children, who died about the same time, is among the oldest in the grave-yard.

HANANIAH RAND was in Westminster about the same time. He is said to have been a brother of John. He came to Westminster from Lancaster.

JOHN WOODWARD was in the place, 1754. It appears by the record of his family, that John and Nathaniel, his two oldest chil-



dren, were born 1741, and 1743, in Tewksbury ; the two next in Nottingham ; and his fifth child was born in Narraganset, in 1753. From this fact it appears that he came to this place from Nottingham. From Nathaniel, the Westminster families descended. John Woodward was Adjutant in Colonel Doolittle's regiment of eight months' men, in the Revolution.

JAMES and EBENEZER TAYLOR were in town about the same time, but they have left no record of their families. It is probable that Asa Taylor, who married, 1768, Sarah Williams, and had John W., Charles, Ebenezer, and Asa ; and Joseph, Samuel, and Ezra Taylor, were their descendants.

THOMAS CONANT came to the township about the same time, and probably had a family, as we find in due time Thomas Conant, Jr. ; but he has left no family record.

NICHOLAS DIKE came to the place probably about the same time. According to the record, he had but three children born in Narraganset ; Mary, born 1757 ; Nicholas, born 1760 ; and Samuel, born 1763. He died July 29, 1812, aged ninety, and hence was born 1722. He was for a long period among the prominent and influential men of the place, filling, for a number of years, the first offices in the gift of the people. He was also one of the principal magistrates of the town, and held a commission as Colonel. He came from Beverly.

RICHARD BAKER was in the place as a citizen before 1759. By his wife Mary, he had Jonadab, born 1759 ; Thomas, born 1761 ; Joanna, born 1763 ; Manassch, born 1765 ; Bezaleel, born 1768 ; John, born 1770 ; Luke, born 1772 ; Judith, born 1774, and Joel, born 1777. He died December 13, 1808, aged eighty, and she died August 1, 1813, aged seventy-eight. He was a member of the first list of Jurors in the District. He came from Lancaster. His wife was Mary Sawyer, grand-daughter of Thomas Sawyer, who was captured by the Indians, 1705, and carried to Canada, where he built the first Saw Mill in that country, and so obtained his freedom.

WILLIAM EDGELL was in the place in 1759, and petitioned for the Act of Incorporation. By his wife Eleanor, he had Joseph, William, and Samuel, and two daughters, born between 1754 and 1762. William Edgell was frequently elected to town office, and commanded a company in the Revolutionary service, in Colonel Stearns's regiment.

JOHN EDGELL, probably brother to William, married, in 1762, Rebecca Winship, of Lexington, and had Ephraim, John, Levi, and two daughters.

JOSIAH JACKSON was in Narraganset before 1759, and by the record, had Oliver and Isaac, and five daughters, born before 1772. He was born April 23, 1730, and his brothers were born, Elisha, February 12, 1737, and Edward, September 3, 1739, both of whom settled in Westminster. ELISHA had Sullivan, Elisha, Josiah, and Ebenezer; and EDWARD had John, Oliver, Edward, Joseph, and Josiah. They were sons of Isaac Jackson, of Newton, who by Will, in 1765, gave them land in Westminster. Isaac was son of Edward, who was son of Sabus, (or Seaborn,) who it was said was born on the passage from England, about 1644.

NATHAN WHITNEY, born March 12, 1727, and JONAS, born June 25, 1733, sons of Ensign David Whitney, of Waltham, and distant relatives of Lieutenant Samuel Whitney, who previously settled here, came to No. 2, before 1756. NATHAN, by his wife, Tabitha Merriam, of Lexington, had Nathan, David, and John, born in 1765, 1767, and 1769, beside six other children who died young. Of these, *Nathan* married, 1786, Eunice Puffer, and had Nathan, Leonard, and other sons who died young. Nathan first, died August 10, 1803, aged seventy-seven, Nathan second, died February 14, 1851, aged eighty-seven, and Nathan third, died December 10, 1831, aged forty. *David* married, November 25, 1791, Elizabeth Barnes, of Princeton, and had David, Aaron, Reuben P., Isaac, Calvin, and five daughters. *John* married, 1793, Elizabeth Stearns, and had John, born 1797.

JONAS WHITNEY married, September 27, 1757, Sarah Whittemore, of Lexington, and had Jonas, Joel, Benjamin, and one daughter. *Jonas* married, 1785, Elizabeth Raymond, of Princeton, and had Joseph, Charles, Jonas, Harrison G., and six daughters. *Joel* married, first, Lucy Holden, and second, widow Abigail Merriam, daughter of Abner Holden, and had Joseph H., Horace, Theodore, and four daughters. The Whitneys in Westminster have been quite influential, and so numerous, and so attached to the military, that it has been said, sportively, that it would be safe for a stranger coming into town to salute every third man he met, with the title and name of "Captain Whitney."

SETH HARRINGTON was probably son of George Harrington, and was born June, 1725. He married, first, Abigail —, who died

1759 ; and second, 1760, Priscilla Houghton, of Lancaster, and had Elisha, born 1754 ; Seth, born 1756 ; Daniel, born 1758 ; Benjamin, born 1769 ; and four daughters. Seth Harrington was probably the ancestor of most, if not all the Harringtons in Westminster.

JOHN BROOKS, by his wife Eunice, had John, Levi, Asa. SAMUEL, who married Huldah Miles, had Oliver, and died 1810 ; EZRA, who married Rebecca Temple, had Ezra, John, Charles, Asa, and five daughters, and died Sept. 14, 1843, aged seventy-five.

JONAS WINSHIP came from Cambridge, and was a descendant of Lieutenant Edward Winship, one of the first settlers of Cambridge, and the ancestor of most, if not all of that name in New England. Jonas Winship, by his wife Mary, had ten children, six daughters and four sons, among whom were Jonas and Cyrus, both of whom settled in Westminster, and had large families.

JAMES COHEE, by his wife Mary, had John, David, James, Nathan, Joel, Pearson, and five daughters, born between 1758 and 1776. He was the ancestor of the families in Westminster which bore his name. He came from Ireland when a lad of fifteen or sixteen, and sold himself (as was not very uncommon at that day) for a limited period, to pay his passage over.

JAMES WALKER, from Sudbury, was here as early as 1755. He married Abigail Wood, sister of Deacon Nathan Wood, and had eight children, most of whom died young. He was a Deacon of the church, and somewhat prominent in the town.

In 1756-7, an epidemic prevailed in the place, and proved very fatal, especially among children.

On the 20th of October, 1759, Narraganset No. 2 was incorporated into a District, by the name of Westminster. At their first meeting, held on the 19th of November of that year, Deacon Joseph Miller was chosen Clerk ; Joseph Miller, Captain Daniel Hoar, Andrew Darby, Ensign Richard Graves, and Lieutenant Samuel Whitney, Selectmen ; Daniel Hoar, Joseph Miller, and Andrew Darby, Assessors ; Joseph Holden, Jr., Treasurer ; and William Bemis, Thomas Conant, and Josiah Cutting, Tythingmen. The place being incorporated as a District, with all the powers of a Town, except that of sending a Representative to the General Court, the people entered at once upon the consideration of what were then regarded as the essential institutions of every town—a School House, a Pound, Stocks, and a supply of ammunition.

The Schools were provided for, the Pound was constructed, but the Stocks were, for the time being, ignored. Their attention was early called to the laying out of highways, to accommodate the inhabitants. But in the multiplicity of their cares, they did not neglect matters of dignity and taste. At a meeting held June 7, 1762, Richard Graves, Nathan Wood, and John Rand, were chosen a Committee to perform what was at that day regarded as a very important, but rather delicate duty, viz., "to dignify and seat the Meeting-house, according to rate and age." The Meeting-house having been seated, according to the prescribed rules, the people agreed to sustain this dignity by providing Stocks for the punishment of offenders.

In 1764, the district was visited by one of the most fatal epidemics which had ever afflicted the place. Almost every family was called to mourning. Mr. Isaac Stedman lost three children; Captain Nathan Whitney, four; Mr. Stephen Calf, four; and Deacon James Walker, two. The disease was the *scarlatina*, or canker-rash, and was peculiarly fatal among children. This sickness, and that which prevailed in 1756, were the most alarming of any that ever afflicted the township. But such diseases are incident to all new countries. The clearing up of new lands, and the letting in of the sun upon decayed vegetable matter, generally fill the atmosphere with a miasma which is deleterious to health.

From the dismissal of Mr. Marsh, in 1757, to the settlement of Mr. Rice, in 1765, the church and society were in a broken and distracted state. They had preaching the greater part of the time, but they were troubled with divisions. In 1760, they extended a call to Mr. Samuel Dix, but he declining it, a call was subsequently extended to Messrs. Peter T. Smith, Samuel French, and John Wythe. Each in his turn declined the office, though Mr. Wythe supplied the desk for some time. The feeble state of the society, and the unfortunate controversies with Mr. Marsh, which continued after his dismissal, undoubtedly had their influence in inducing these gentlemen to decline a settlement. At length, at a meeting held July 19, 1765, the Parish voted to concur with the Church in extending an invitation to Rev. Asaph Rice, to become their pastor. Mr. Rice having accepted the call, the 16th of October of the same year was fixed upon for his ordination, when he took upon himself the solemn duties of Pastor of the Church of Christ in Westminster. The district gave him £133 6s. 8d. as a settlement,

£66 13s. 4d., with thirty cords of wood, as an annual salary. Rev. Eli Forbes, of Brookfield, preached the sermon, from 1 Cor. ii. 2.

Mr. Rice was son of Beriah Rice, of Westborough, a descendant of Edmund Rice, an original emigrant, who settled first at Sudbury, and afterwards at Marlborough. He was born May 9, 1733, and was graduated at Harvard College, 1752. He studied medicine and practiced a short time in Brookfield; but having his right wrist broken by his horse falling with him, he was induced to quit his profession, and qualify himself for the ministry. Before his settlement in Westminster, he had spent about two years as a missionary among the Indians at the Oneida Plantations, on the Susquehanna. Losing his right hand, he was compelled to write with his left; and specimens of his penmanship show that he acquired considerable skill in writing in that manner.

Mr. Rice married, December 26, 1765, Mary Morse, of Boylston, daughter of Rev. Ebenezer Morse. She died in childbed, in 1766, in her twentieth year, and he married Lucy Clough. She died, and he married as his third wife, Lucy Shattuck, widow of Benjamin Shattuck, physician, of Templeton. She survived her last husband about five years, and died at Templeton, 1821. His children were,

1. Persis, born November, 1766; married Silas Beaman.
2. Elizabeth C., born 1771; married Doctor Asa Miles.
3. Thomas, born 1774; married Mary Eames, of Boston. He was a merchant in Boston for some years, and then removed to Galena, Illinois.
4. Asaph, born 1775; died in infancy.
5. Asaph, born February 17, 1777; entered Harvard College, 1798; left, 1799; married Abigail Sawyer, of Bolton, and settled first at Thetford, Vermont, moved to Orford, New Hampshire, then to Lewiston, Illinois.
6. Mary, born June, 1778; married Jacob Sawyer.
7. Thankful, born 1780; married Farwell Jones.

Mr. Rice continued his relation with the church and society till the close of his life. He died March 31, 1816, in the eighty-third year of his age, and the fifty-first of his ministry.

Nothing of special moment transpired while the place remained under the district organization. The last French war gave the people no great uneasiness; and being but a small settlement, just emerging from a state of danger, they did not furnish many troops

to prosecute the war upon the frontier. There is, however, a tradition to the following effect.

In the call for men in 1758, Richard Baker, William Edgell, Thomas Dunster, and perhaps others, entered the service for one year. They marched first to Albany, then to Lake George. At the expiration of their term, the officer in command refused to discharge them. Whereupon they resolved to return home, regardless of consequences. It was in the midst of winter, and the ground was covered with snow to a great depth. They made themselves snow-shoes, with strips of hide from the dead horses, and made other preparations for their departure. A council of officers was held, which decided that the Company thus resolved to leave, should the next day, be put under guard. This decision of the council having been privately made known to them, they were determined to avoid that humiliation, and before *roll-call* the next morning, they took their departure, with such provisions as they could lay their hands upon, to return to Massachusetts. Their way lay through a trackless waste, and over the Green Mountain range. They lost their way in the forest, but at length found one of the head branches of Deerfield river, which they followed, and on the ninth day arrived at Coleraine. The party consisted of nearly a whole company, from Westminster and other towns.

During this march, they suffered almost incredibly from the depth of the snow, the severity of the weather, and the want of provisions. For days they were without food. Falling in with a dog, they killed him, which served them for a meal. It was said that, at one time, they resolved to cast lots to see who should be slain, to save the rest from starvation. But some fortunate circumstance saved them from that dire necessity, and the whole party at length got safely to Massachusetts.

The population, from 1760 to 1770, increased with considerable rapidity. Most of those who came into the place between 1750 and 1770, had families, and the natural increase was very considerable; besides, several families came into the town during this decade.

*Jonathan Brown* from Lancaster, the father of Jonathan, Benjamin, Joseph and John; *Josiah Puffer* from Sudbury, the father of Samuel and Asahel; *John Foskett*, the ancestor of those of that name in town, from Bolton; *Timothy Fessenden* from Lexington, the father of a numerous family; *Joseph Spaulding* from Chelms-

ford, the father of Jesse, Mirari, Joseph and Zebina ; *Joshua Everett* from Attleborough, and *Pelutiah Everett* from Wrentham ; *Stephen Sawin* from Worcester, with his sons, Jonathan, David, Samuel, Reuben, and James then an infant, who died 1859, aged ninety-eight ; *Nathaniel Sawyer* from Reading, and *Jonathan Sawyer*, probably from the same place ; *Thomas Merriam* from Lexington, the father of Asa and others ; *Samuel Merriam* from the same place, brother of Thomas, and father of Nathan and others ; *Nathan Pierce* from Lexington, ancestor of the Pierces ; *Jonathan Raymond* from Lexington, father of Jonathan, John, Joseph, Isaac, Ebenezer, and Nathan ; *Nathan Howard* from Malden, father of Nathan and Joseph ; *Dr. Zachariah Harvey* from Princeton, *Michael Gill*, and several other families, came to the place, so that the population in the period of ten years more than doubled—bringing it up to about 680 in 1770.

A prospect more flattering than they had before enjoyed, now opened upon them, and comparative prosperity ensued. The troublesome question “of dignifying and seating the Meeting-house,” which was before the people in 1762, came up subsequently, and a Committee was appointed to do it, “according to real and personal estates, and having reference to *age and honor*.”

In 1768, a Resolve was passed unanimously, which shows the spirit of the times, and reflects honor upon the memory of our fathers—a Resolve which, abating the grammar, might with great propriety be re-resolved in these days of idleness and extravagance. We will give it verbatim.

“The District of Westminster, taking into consideration the sinking state of the Province, arising through the manifold extravagances of the inhabitants ; in the great neglect of industry, and the still greater increase of our misery in the extravagant expense of its inhabitants, in the purchase of superfluities ; and are fully sensible of the absolute necessity of industry and frugality, in order to save us from impending woe, to save our wealth, and to place us in a state of independency ; do cheerfully and unanimously vote and resolve, that from and after the first day of April next, we will not purchase any superfluities, and that we will take every proper method within our power to encourage industry and manufactory within the District ; for we are fully sensible that idleness has a natural tendency to impoverish any community, and when attended with extravagance, brings immediate ruin, will therefore by all

possible and lawful means, take every method within our power to encourage industry among ourselves, and take this opportunity to give it in direction to our Selectmen, to take special care that all idle persons among us, be kept to some lawful business, and that the laws of the Province in that regard be duly observed."

We may smile at the simplicity of our fathers, but such Resolutions as the above did a great deal toward producing a controlling public sentiment of economy and self-sacrifice, which enabled the Colonies to carry on the war which they had reason to fear was approaching.

In 1770, on the 26th of April, the District of Westminster was erected into a Town, by an Act of the Legislature. We now arrive at a period in which the encroachments of Great Britain became the absorbing theme. And though we could not expect that a small town in the interior, would take a leading part in the controversies of that day, we find that they were ready to respond to any call made upon them. On the 11th of February, 1773, in response to the call of the Committee of Correspondence of Boston, they say, "We shall at all times heartily join with them, (the people of Boston,) in all legal constitutional measures for the recovery of those inestimable rights and privileges wrested from us, and for securing those that remain; for we are sensible, that should we renounce our liberty, we should renounce the quality of men, the rights of humanity, and even our duty to God and man."

In December, 1774, they passed a vote forbidding the Constables to pay the money collected on the Province tax to the royal Treasurer appointed by the Governor, and directing them to pay it over to the Treasurer appointed by the Provincial Congress. They also voted that they would adopt the recommendations of the Continental and Provincial Congresses, and thus put themselves in a position to maintain and defend their rights. They subsequently voted that they would support their due proportion of the poor of Boston, who were reduced to penury by the shutting up of that port.

In the mean time, the people of Westminster were careful to be represented in the Provincial Congresses by some of their best, most patriotic, and reliable men. Deacon Nathan Wood, and Abner Holden, Esq., were elected to the first Provincial Congress, and Deacon Wood to the second and third.

On the 10th of June, 1776, at a meeting called for that purpose,



it was voted unanimously, that if the Continental Congress should declare the Colonies independent of Great Britain, "they would stand by and support them in the measure with their lives and fortunes."

Such was the spirit which actuated the inhabitants of this town during that eventful struggle. It may appear small for a town like Westminster, at that period, to pass resolves on subjects of a national character; but it was in fact in these little Republics, that the seeds of liberty were sown.

The importance of Town Meetings, at that time, cannot be over-rated. In the darkest day of the period immediately preceding the breaking out of hostilities, when the Royal Governor had prorogued the Legislature, and refused to order a new election; when an armed force was stationed in Boston, to overawe the patriots, and the people had no organized medium of communication with each other; that master spirit of liberty, SAMUEL ADAMS, who did more to organize the American Revolution than any other man, called upon the good people of Boston to assemble in Town Meeting, to consult upon all they held dear as citizens. And it was in a Boston Town Meeting, that Committees of Correspondence were suggested, and organized. In pursuance of this proposed organization, the towns throughout the Colony held their public meetings, at which Committees of Correspondence were chosen, patriotic Resolutions passed, and mutual pledges interchanged, which produced unity of action, created and embodied public sentiment, and fitted the people for the great struggle which was impending.

No one measure contributed more to warm the patriot heart, or nerve the patriot arm, than these primary meetings of the people. The effect was felt and acknowledged by the Colonists. The influence thus exerted, was so great and controlling, that the British ministry became alarmed, and Parliament passed a solemn Act forbidding all Town Meetings, except the annual meeting for the choice of town officers. But such was the devotion of the people to these primary meetings, that in the interior they paid no attention to the law, and in some of the larger towns, they evaded it, by adjourning their annual meetings, from time to time, so that they might be prepared, at almost any moment, to come together to consult upon matters of public safety. Conceiving the privilege of assembling to deliberate in this manner so important, they actually made the Act prohibiting Town Meetings, one of the

prominent charges against Great Britain, and urged it as one of the causes for resorting to arms. If there is any one thing which has given to Faneuil Hall its notoriety, and has secured to it the glorious appellation of "The Cradle of Liberty," it is the fact, that here the patriots of Boston met in Town Meeting, and adopted measures, and passed resolutions in defence of their liberties—measures and resolutions which enkindled the fires of patriotism in America and shook the kingdom of Great Britain to its very centre. Let no one then speak disparagingly of these little democratic gatherings, where the pure and unsophisticated sentiments of freemen were faithfully expressed, and where the true sentiments of the people were fully reflected.

The history of those times shows, that these resolutions, adopted by the towns, were not empty boasts. Westminster assured Samuel Adams, then and always the leader of the Boston Committee of Correspondence, that they would join them in defence of their liberties, whenever an occasion should present itself. And on the 19th of April, 1775, on hearing of the march of the British troops, and of their outrage at Lexington, the Westminster companies, commanded by Captain Elisha Jackson, Captain John Estabrook, and Captain Noah Miles, immediately marched for the scene of action, with more than fifty men. And though from their distance, they did not arrive in season to join in the affairs of that day, they marched to Cambridge, which was at once made the head-quarters of the Provincial troops, where they remained eight or ten days, till the alarm had subsided.

The following is the list of Captain Jackson's men, who marched to Cambridge on that occasion :

Elisha Jackson, *Captain*.  
 John Hoar, *Lieutenant*.  
 Amariah Rand, *Sergeant*.  
 Joshua Everett, "  
 John Glazier, "  
 Joseph Beard, *Corporal*.  
 Isaac Williams, "  
 Nath. Eaton,  
 John Pierce,  
 Asa Taft,  
 Jonathan Child,  
 James Bowers,  
 Samuel Foster,

Jonathan Bancroft,  
 Joseph Holland,  
 John Matthews,  
 Andrew Darby,  
 Elisha Bigelow,  
 Ebenezer Eaton,  
 Darius Sawyer,  
 Paul Sawyer,  
 Reuben Miles,  
 John Bigelow,  
 Zachariah Willis,  
 Amos Spring.

The following is a list of Captain Estabrook's men, who also marched to Cambridge :

|                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| John Estabrook, <i>Captain.</i>    | Edward Jackson,      |
| William Edgell, <i>Lieutenant.</i> | Asa Ray,             |
| Nathan Howard,                     | Samuel Warren,       |
| Jabez Bigelow,                     | Silas Whitney,       |
| John Brown,                        | John Goodale,        |
| James Cooper,                      | Lovell Brooks,       |
| Nathaniel Wheeler,                 | Nathaniel Kezor,     |
| David Child,                       | John Cowry,          |
| Thomas Bemis,                      | Josiah Wheeler, Jr., |
| David Pratt,                       | Elias Stearns,       |
| Edmund Wilson,                     | Nathan Pierce,       |
| Moses Seaver,                      | Joshua Millins,      |
| Barron Brown,                      | Eli Keyes.           |

The following is a list of Captain Noah Miles's Company, which also marched to Cambridge :

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Noah Miles, <i>Captain.</i>      | Solomon Garfield,  |
| Samuel Sawin, <i>Lieutenant.</i> | Peter Graves,      |
| James Clark, <i>Ensign.</i>      | Josiah Hadley,     |
| Norman Seaver, <i>Sergeant.</i>  | William Howley,    |
| William Bickford, “              | Jonathan Hager,    |
| Josiah Puffer, “                 | Noah Miles, Jr.,   |
| Ephraim Miller, “                | Nathan Miles,      |
| Edward Beaman, <i>Corporal.</i>  | Levi Miles,        |
| Bezaleel Holt, “                 | William Murdock,   |
| Silas Holt, <i>Fifer.</i>        | Jonas Sawin,       |
| Josiah Jackson,                  | Ahijah Wood,       |
| Nathan Davis,                    | Nathan Wood, Jr.,  |
| David Bemis,                     | Ephraim Wetherbee, |
| Benjamin Barnard,                | John White,        |
| Zaccheus Bemis,                  | Andrew Beard,      |
| John Ball,                       | Joel Miles,        |
| Jonathan Graves,                 | John Darby,        |
| Samuel Whitney,                  | Elijah Hadley,     |
| Samuel Houghton,                 | Aaron Bolton.      |
| Isaac Russell,                   |                    |

More or less of the Westminster men were in each and every campaign during the war. From the imperfect rolls, I have been able to glean a partial list, which I think will compare well with other towns of its size. Few towns of eight hundred inhabitants furnished, I venture to say, more men in the Revolution.

Though the companies which turned out on the Lexington alarm, did not, as such, enlist into the army, Westminster furnished a goodly number who enlisted into the eight months' service, immediately after ; as the following roll will show :

|                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Edmund Bemis, <i>Captain</i> .     | William Everett,                |
| John Hoar, <i>Lieutenant</i> .     | John Fessenden,                 |
| David Foster, 2d "                 | Peletiah Everett,               |
| Jedediah Tucker, <i>Sergeant</i> . | Zachariah Harvey,               |
| Jacob Walton, "                    | Aaron Hill,                     |
| Ephraim Hall, "                    | Eli Keyes,                      |
| Isaac Williams, "                  | Reuben Miles (died in service), |
| Abraham Stone, <i>Corporal</i> .   | Alpheus Newton,                 |
| Thomas Knower, "                   | Ziphron Newton,                 |
| Ebenezer Bolton, "                 | William Parker,                 |
| William Houghton, "                | Nathan Peirce,                  |
| Joel Adams,                        | William Putnam,                 |
| Joseph Beard,                      | Joel Miles,                     |
| Barron Brown,                      | Zachariah Rand,                 |
| Abner Bemis,                       | Samuel Seaver,                  |
| James Bowers,                      | Charles Reed,                   |
| Thomas Farnsworth,                 | Elijah Simonds,                 |
| John Bears,                        | Benjamin Seaver,                |
| Samuel Child,                      | John Snow,                      |
| Jonathan Child,                    | Amos Spring,                    |
| Paul Sawyer,                       | Ahijah Wood,                    |
| Israel Walton,                     | Zachariah Willis,               |
| Edward Wilson,                     | Joseph Robbins,                 |
| Nehemiah Bowers,                   | John Wells,                     |
| John Brown,                        | John Bemis,                     |
| Joseph Corrender,                  | Isaac Child,                    |
| Aaron Cleveland,                   | Isaac Miller.                   |
| Henry J. Dunster,                  |                                 |

There were also, in the eight months' service from Westminster, in Capt. Wood's company, Col. Sargeant's regiment :

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Nathaniel Doubleday, <i>Lieutenant</i> . | Levi Fuller,            |
| Uriah Carpenter, <i>Sergeant</i> .       | James Ide,              |
| William Crook,                           | Seth Rowe,              |
| James Croford,                           | Zachariah Tarbell,      |
| Nehemiah Chase,                          | Zachariah Tarbell, Jr., |
| Abner Wise,                              | Joshua Wells.           |

At the alarm at the Bennington fight, in August, 1777, the following men marched from Westminster, and were in service ten days :

Elisha Jackson, *Captain*.  
 Samuel Sawin, *Lieutenant*.  
 Jabez Bigelow, "  
 Edward Bacon, *Sergeant*.  
 Jonathan Sawyer, "  
 Josiah Wheeler, "  
 Stephen Calf,  
 Nathan Wetherbee,  
 Stephen Moor,  
 Thomas Knowler,  
 Zachariah Rand,  
 David Bemis,  
 Joshua Bigelow,  
 Zachariah Bemis,  
 John Hoar,  
 Ephraim Hall,  
 Silas Holt,  
 Josiah Jackson,  
 Edward Jackson,  
 Noah Miles,  
 Nathan Miles,  
 Asa Ray,  
 Reuben Sawin,  
 Asa Taylor,  
 Nathan Wood,

Jonathan Brown,  
 Isaac Brooks,  
 Thomas Bemis,  
 Ebenezer Bolton,  
 Levi Brooks,  
 Ephraim Bigelow,  
 James Clark,  
 David Come,  
 Jedediah Cooper,  
 John Edgell,  
 Samuel Foster,  
 Amos Gates,  
 John Glazier,  
 Peter Graves,  
 Jonathan Hager,  
 Joseph Holden,  
 Stephen Holden,  
 Isaac Miller,  
 Joel Miles,  
 Samuel Merriam,  
 Joseph Perry,  
 Elijah Simonds,  
 Jude Sawyer,  
 Abel Wood.

To reinforce the army at Bennington, in September, 1777, Westminster sent the following, who were out twenty-seven days :

Elisha Jackson, *Captain*.  
 Samuel Sawin, *Lieutenant*.  
 Jabez Bigelow, "  
 Edward Bacon, *Sergeant*.  
 William Bickford, "  
 Hamaniah Rand, "  
 Edmund Beaman, *Corporal*.  
 Stephen Miles, "  
 John Edgell, "  
 Solomon Garfield, "  
 Levi Graves, "  
 Joshua Bigelow,  
 Levi Brooks,  
 Joshua Bemis,  
 Josiah Puffer,  
 Nathan Parmeter,  
 Nathaniel Wilson,  
 Abel Wood,

James Clark,  
 Stephen Calf,  
 Amos Conant,  
 Josiah Conant,  
 John Cutting,  
 Nathan Darby,  
 Andrew Darby,  
 Samuel Fessenden,  
 Josiah Hadley,  
 Stephen Holden,  
 Edward Jackson,  
 Thomas Laws,  
 Abner Miles,  
 Jonathan Raymond,  
 Abner Sawin,  
 James Webber,  
 Isaac Williams,  
 Samuel Wood.

The several lists which follow, are very imperfect ; they have been selected from dilapidated rolls, and some names, undoubtedly, have been overlooked. Many of the rolls do not give the town to which the soldier belonged ; and hence some must have been omitted in these lists.

The following men from Westminster, were in service in Rhode Island, in 1777 :

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Hannaniah Rand,  | Elisha Whitney,    |
| Moses Seaver,    | Nathaniel Wheeler, |
| Phineas Whitney, | Ephraim Miles,     |
| Joel Miles,      | Jonas Whitney.     |

Men from Westminster, raised for one year from January 1, 1778, and served in Captain Elisha Jackson's company :

|                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Benjamin Treadway, | Elijah Bemis, (died in service,) |
| Zachariah Harvey,  | Nathan Lewis,                    |

Men in three months' service, 1779, Captain Pratt's company :

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Samuel Brooks, | Abner Sawin. |
|----------------|--------------|

Men in the expedition to Rhode Island, 1779 :

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Asa Brooks, | Isaac Seaver. |
|-------------|---------------|

The six months' men from Westminster, raised to reinforce the Continental Army under a Resolve passed June, 1780 :

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Abel Pearce,        | Richard Everett,  |
| George Stone,       | Charles Hendrick, |
| Nicholas Dike, Jr., | Jonas Darby,      |
| Isaac Puffer,       | Samuel Gibbs,     |
| William Sartcher,   | Isaac Seaver.     |

In the nine months' men in 1780, from this town, were Josiah Bliss, in the tenth Massachusetts regiment, and Ebenezer Putnam, in the seventh Massachusetts regiment.

In Captain Sibley's company, raised under the Act of June 30, 1781, Westminster furnished :

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Jonadab Baker, | Richard Everett, |
| Samuel Hoar,   | Isaac Dupee,     |
| John Cohee,    | George Stone.    |
| James Cohee,   |                  |

In the three years' men raised under Resolve of December 2, 1780, were :

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Silas Holt,        | Isaiah Taylor,     |
| Savage Taylor,     | Amos Kimball,      |
| Samuel Merrifield, | Grant Powers,      |
| Jonathan Harvey,   | John Atwell,       |
| Jonathan Stedman,  | Benjamin Treadway, |
| Elijah Gibbs,      | Nathaniel Pattin.  |

In the regular army were the following, who served the periods set against their names in months :

|                 |        |                           |        |
|-----------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| James Bowers,   | 36 mo. | Barron Brown,             | 46 mo. |
| John Ball,      | 36     | Joseph Bailey,            | 15     |
| Abel Pierce,    | 36     | Timothy Crystal,          | 12     |
| George Stone,   | 36     | Peletiah Everett,         | 4      |
| Gideon Stanby,  | 36     | Nathan Green,             | 36     |
| Asa Wesson,     | 36     | Samuel Hunt,              | 20     |
| Eli Keyes,      | 47     | Nathan Pierce,            | 37     |
| Zipron Newton,  | 37     | Amos Spring,              | 4      |
| William Putnam, | 36     | Nathan Woodward,          | 36     |
| Daniel Smith,   | 14     | Henry Talburst, deserted, | 30     |

Besides this long and formidable list, there were, in different regiments and companies, the following Westminster men : Norman Seaver and Moses Seaver, stationed in Rhode Island twelve months, Jonathan W. Smith, Joshua Mellen, John Abby.

John Woodward was Adjutant in Colonel Doolittle's regiment of eight months' men.

Colonel John Rand was in service three months, in command of a regiment from Worcester County.\*

While engaged in the Revolutionary struggle, the people of Massachusetts felt the necessity of forming a Constitution of Government, for the better managing of their own affairs. In 1778, a Constitution was formed, and submitted to the people for their acceptance or rejection. The citizens of Westminster voted unanimously against it. It seems due to their memories to state some of the principal exceptions which they took to this proposed Constitution. "It is our opinion," they say, "that no Constitution whatever ought to be established, till previously thereto a Bill of Rights be set forth ; and the Constitution be framed therefrom—so that

\* I have generally adopted the orthography of the names as I find them on the rolls.

the lowest capacity may be able to determine his natural rights, and judge of the equitableness of the Constitution thereby."

"And as to the Constitution itself, the following appears to us exceptionable, viz., the fifth article, which deprives a part of the human race of their natural rights on account of *their color*; which, in our opinion, no power on earth has a just right to do."

They also objected to the Constitution before them, because it deprived the people of the choice of many of their officers; and they supported this position by the following truly democratic reasoning. "Where can the power be lodged so safely as in the hands of the people; and who can delegate it so well as they? Or who has the boldness to say without blushing, that the people are not suitable to put in their own officers? If so, why do we waste our blood and treasure to obtain that which, when obtained, we are not fit to enjoy?"

The Constitution in question was not only rejected by the good people of this Town, but by the good people of the State; and its rejection led to the formation of another, and a better one, which was adopted.

The history of Westminster, as of other towns during the Revolution, exhibits one continued, persevering struggle with difficulties, to which we are strangers. The duty of furnishing a certain quota of troops and supplies for the army, the poverty and destitution of the people, the depreciated and fluctuating state of paper money—these were embarrassments which, though unknown to us, pressed heavily upon the people at that day. Some idea of the depreciated state of paper money, and the consequent increase of prices, may be formed by the fact that the wood furnished to Rev. Mr. Rice, in 1786, was procured at auction for fifty-nine and sixty dollars per cord.

The state of things that followed the Revolution was, if possible, more distressing. The return of the soldiers without pay, the habits of the camp which they brought with them, the general indebtedness of the Nation, the State, and the Town, and the inability of the people to meet their private debts, together with the grasping and extortionary spirit of the few moneyed men to exact the last farthing,—these contributed to bring upon the people an embarrassment and perplexity as great as was felt during the war, without any of that foreign pressure which awakened and kept alive their patriotism, before their independence was acknowledged.



The population of Westminster, between 1770 and 1780, notwithstanding the check produced by the Revolutionary war, increased about forty-six per cent, bringing the population at the latter period up to about 990. Within this period, several families came into town. I shall not attempt to arrange them in the order of their settlement, nor attempt to trace them to their origin. The following, among others, settled within this period ; and their families have been more or less numerous and influential in the town : Joseph Flint, William Bickford, Simon Gates, Asa Ray, Edmund Barnard from Waltham, Nathaniel Tothingham, who married Esther Brown of Lexington, Jonathan Hager from Waltham, Aaron Bolton, Norman Seaver, Timothy Damon from Reading, Jedediah Cooper, Isaac Williams from Newton, Nathan Wetherbee from Marlborough, Thomas and James Laws, Zachariah Whitman from Stow, (who had fourteen children, among whom were Jonathan, Zachariah, and Joseph,) Thomas Knower from Malden, William Murdock, Samuel Gerrish from Sterling, Timothy Heywood from Sterling, Isaac Dupee from Reading, Nathan Eaton from Reading, and Jonathan Minott from Westford.

Three of the above families I have been able to trace back to the early emigrant. John Whitman came to this country early, and settled in Weymouth before 1638. In 1645, he was appointed Ensign, and a Magistrate to "end small controversies." He was also a Deacon of the church. His youngest son, Zachariah, was a clergyman, and settled at Nantasket, 1670. John, his second son, settled in Stow, where he was a Magistrate and a Deacon. He had, among other sons, Zachariah, who was the father of the Zachariah who came to Westminster.

Timothy Heywood was a descendant of George Heywood of Concord, who was one of the first settlers there, died 1671. He had a son and a grandson by the name of John ; the latter was a Deacon, and had Phinehas, born in 1707, who settled in Shrewsbury, where Timothy was born, February 12, 1740. Timothy settled first in Sterling, and then moved to Westminster, where he died August 14, 1825. He had eleven children.

Jonathan Minott was born August 23, 1749, and married, Sept. 3, 1771, Hannah Eastman of Westford. He was one of the gallant men who marched to Lexington, April 19, 1775. George Minott, son of Thomas Minott, Esq., of Essex, England, was

born 1594, came to this country early, and settled in Dorchester. He was the ancestor of Jonathan. George Minott was an Elder in the church, and was cotemporary with Elder Humphrey. They were both held in high esteem, as appears by the attempt to confer immortality upon them by Epitaph :

“ Here lie the bodies of Unite Humphrey and Shining Minott ;  
Such names as these, they never die not.”

One remarkable fact concerning several of these families is, that when they came to the place, they were, in the language of that day, “warned out of town.” This was true of some men who afterwards became wealthy, respectable, and influential. This precaution was taken, lest the new-comers, or some of their family, should become paupers, and chargeable to the town. It would cause a smile to be told that one-half of the men who have filled the principal offices in the town, for the last fifty years, such as Selectmen, Town Clerk, Representative, and Justice of the Peace, have been warned out of town, either in their own persons, or in that of their ancestors. And yet this is the fact with reference to this, and most of the towns in the Commonwealth.

In 1785, a tract, consisting of seven or eight thousand acres, in the north-westerly part of the town, was set off from Westminster, to form a part of a new town, by the name of Gardner.

In 1786, a vote was passed in town-meeting, to build a new Meeting-house. This house was finished in 1788, and was dedicated January 1, 1789. It was located on the Common, north of the present traveled road. It was a two-story building, with galleries, and was finished, ultimately, with square pews, a sounding-board, and all the usual accommodations of that period. It remained as the place of worship till 1837, when it was superseded by the new house now standing upon the Street. The old house was then disposed of, and the frame, somewhat reduced in height, was removed to another part of the village, and converted into a mill, and a pail and chair factory. It is now generally known as the Red Mill.

Next to the church and a minister, our fathers generally provided for schools and the schoolmaster. It is probable that something was done by private individuals before that period ; but the first appropriation we find, was one of twenty dollars, in 1759.

Two years afterwards, the grant was increased to twenty-six dollars, and in 1763, to forty-four dollars. This money was expended in what was denominated a *moving school*, which was kept in private houses, in different parts of the town. In 1765 or '66, the district was fined for not supporting schools according to law. This acting as a stimulus, in 1767 the inhabitants erected a school-house twenty feet square, and appropriated one hundred dollars for the support of schools. This school-house was situated on the Common, easterly of the Meeting-house. The same year, the district voted to support a school for four months, in the centre of the town. In 1771, one hundred and eighty dollars were appropriated for schools, and in 1772, the inhabitants voted to divide the town into five districts, and to erect a school-house in each, eighteen feet square. From that period to the present, the schools have been improving. The number of public schools at this day is thirteen; the aggregate number of months those schools are kept, yearly, is about seventy; the number of scholars between the ages of five and fifteen is a little rising four hundred; and the amount of money raised for the support of schools is fifteen hundred dollars, or about three dollars and sixty-eight cents for each scholar between the ages of five and fifteen years.

Besides the public schools, in 1829, there was an academy established in the place, which, for a long period, was well patronized; but owing to the numerous high schools in the adjoining towns, the interest in this and other academies has declined.

On the organization of the district into a town, in 1770, they neglected to elect a Representative to the General Court, for which neglect a fine was imposed. Owing to the deranged state of political affairs, no Representative was elected till 1776, when Deacon Nathan Wood, who had represented the town in the three Provincial Congresses, was elected. In the following years, during the Revolution, Deacon Miller and Abner Holden represented the town.

After passing through the trials of the Revolution, and recovering from the state of depression and pecuniary embarrassment, attendant upon that exhausting war, the town became comparatively prosperous, and its population and wealth gradually increased.

Several families came into the place before the year 1800, of whom I have taken no notice heretofore. I will mention a few of them, and especially those who have left descendants. Edward

Bacon from Newton, Thaddeus Bond from Sudbury, Francis Barnes from Acton, Silas Beaman from Princeton, Samuel Fessenden from Lexington, Ephraim Fenno from Boston, Phinehas and Amos Gates from Stow, Edward Kendall from Leominster, Samuel Moseman from Princeton, Benjamin Nichols from Reading, several by the name of Smith from Sudbury, Jeduthan Warren from Chelmsford, James White from Lancaster, several of the name of Stone from Groton, several of the name of Taylor from Stow, Moses Thurston from Newbury, Abisha Shumway from Oxford, David Wyman from Pelham, New Hampshire.

As the population of the town is a pretty sure exponent of its wealth and prosperity, I will give the population in each decennial period, from the first settlement to the present day.

| Year.           | Population. | Year.           | Population. |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1740, . . . . . | 25          | 1810, . . . . . | 1,419       |
| 1750, . . . . . | 95          | 1820, . . . . . | 1,634       |
| 1760, . . . . . | 300         | 1830, . . . . . | 1,695       |
| 1770, . . . . . | 680         | 1840, . . . . . | 1,645       |
| 1780, . . . . . | 990         | 1850, . . . . . | 1,914       |
| 1790, . . . . . | 1,176       | 1855, . . . . . | 1,979       |
| 1800, . . . . . | 1,368       |                 |             |

From 1740 to 1780, inclusive, the population as above stated, is unofficial, though I am persuaded that it is a close approximation to the true amount. From 1790 to 1850, inclusive, the population is taken from the United States census, and the population of 1855, is taken from the State census.

Having given the inhabitants at different periods, I will give the polls and dwelling-houses, as far as I can obtain them officially. In an old document, signed by Thomas Brigden, William Edgell, and Nathan Wood, Assessors, dated 1771, I find the resources of the town set forth as follows:—polls taxed, 182; not taxed, 15; houses, 122; shops, not connected with dwellings, 4; grist, fulling and saw mills, 6; slaves, 3; horses, 75; oxen, four years' old and over, 178; cows, three years old and upward, 374; grain of all kinds, 4,659 bushels.

In 1830, Westminster stood in the State valuation, at \$339,006, and paid \$1.85 on every \$1,000 State tax. Number of dwelling-houses, 257; of barns, 253; of oxen, 330; of cows, 800; of horses, 228; of young cattle, 538; of sheep, 846; of swine, 302;

of saw mills, 8 ; of grist mills, 5 ; of factories, 1 ; of carding machines, 1 ; of clothier's works, 1 ; of turning lathes, 5 ; of tanneries, 3 ; and of stores, 6.

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| In 1830, Westminster stood in the valuation, at | \$339,006 |
| “ 1840, “ “ “ “                                 | 457,983   |
| And in 1850, in the valuation, at . . . .       | 732,784   |
| Showing an increase in twenty years, of . . .   | 393,778   |

In a tabular form, this kind of information will stand thus :

| Year.        | Polls.      | Dwelling-Houses. |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1771 . . . . | 197 . . . . | 122              |
| 1785 . . . . | 271 . . . . | 153              |
| 1791 . . . . | 318 . . . . | 166              |
| 1801 . . . . | 334 . . . . | 189              |
| 1811 . . . . | 384 . . . . | 212              |
| 1821 . . . . | 421 . . . . | 220              |
| 1831 . . . . | 433 . . . . | 257              |
| 1841 . . . . | 468 . . . . | 282              |
| 1851 . . . . | 519 . . . . | 305              |

The valuation taken in 1798, as the basis of the direct tax imposed by the United States, casts considerable light upon the condition of the town at that time, by showing the value of the houses, the number of families, and the owners or occupants of the homestead, and the value put upon the respective houses. There were other smaller tenements, of less value. The first column shows the name of the owner or occupant ; the second, the value of the house, including the lot, not exceeding forty square rods.

|                          |        |                             |        |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| John Adams, . . . .      | \$ 102 | Silas Beaman, . . . .       | \$ 200 |
| Jabez Bigelow, . . . .   | 750    | Benjamin Bigelow, . . . .   | 103    |
| Ephraim Bigelow, . . . . | 380    | Thaddeus Bond, . . . .      | 500    |
| Elisha Bigelow, . . . .  | 790    | Samuel Brooks, . . . .      | 175    |
| Daniel Bartlett, . . . . | 580    | Isaac Brooks, . . . .       | 410    |
| Luke Bigelow, . . . .    | 150    | Jonathan Brown, . . . .     | 420    |
| Aaron Bolton, . . . .    | 150    | David Child, . . . .        | 110    |
| Edward Bacon, . . . .    | 101    | Thomas Conant, Jr., . . . . | 110    |
| Edmund Barnard, . . . .  | 500    | Jedediah Cooper, . . . .    | 540    |
| Richard Baker, . . . .   | 350    | James Cohee, . . . .        | 575    |
| Edward Bemis, . . . .    | 300    | Andrew Darby, . . . .       | 260    |
| Thomas Bemis, . . . .    | 103    | John Damon, . . . .         | 300    |
| Zaccheus Bemis, . . . .  | 220    | Timothy —, . . . .          | 320    |
| Joseph Bemis, . . . .    | 400    | Ezra Darby, . . . .         | 150    |

|                               |        |                           |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| Nathan Darby, . . .           | \$ 200 | Ephraim Robbins, . . .    | \$ 175 |
| John Darby, . . .             | 350    | Daniel Sawin, . . .       | 101    |
| Nicholas Dike, . . .          | 150    | Silas Smith, . . .        | 115    |
| Nathan Eaton, . . .           | 103    | Charles Smith, . . .      | 400    |
| William Edgell, . . .         | 600    | Thaddeus Smith, . . .     | 300    |
| John Estabrook, . . .         | 400    | Abishai Shumway, . . .    | 290    |
| Peletiah Everett, . . .       | 480    | Joseph Sawin, . . .       | 200    |
| Benjamin Flint, . . .         | 300    | Abraham Sampson, . . .    | 300    |
| John Fessenden, . . .         | 140    | Jonathan Sawin, . . .     | 110    |
| Daniel Foskett, . . .         | 105    | James Sawin, . . .        | 200    |
| Stephen Hoar, . . .           | 870    | Samuel Sawin, . . .       | 320    |
| John Hoar, . . .              | 580    | Joseph Spaulding, . . .   | 150    |
| Stephen Holden, . . .         | 110    | Zebina Spaulding, . . .   | 105    |
| Seth Harrington, . . .        | 400    | Benjamin Seaver, . . .    | 102    |
| Timothy Heywood, . . .        | 103    | David Sawin, . . .        | 400    |
| Jonathan Hager, . . .         | 480    | Jonathan Sawyer, . . .    | 740    |
| Abner Holden, . . .           | 560    | Eli Sawyer, . . .         | 230    |
| Abner Holden, Jr., . . .      | 240    | Asa Taft, . . .           | 101    |
| John Brown, . . .             | 480    | Moses Thurston, . . .     | 320    |
| Levi Holden, . . .            | 400    | Asa Taylor, . . .         | 465    |
| Nathan Howard, . . .          | 260    | Nathan Tottingham, . . .  | 220    |
| Oliver Jackson, . . .         | 160    | Samuel Taylor, . . .      | 105    |
| Edward Jackson, . . .         | 598    | Nathan Whitney, . . .     | 520    |
| Silas Jackson, . . .          | 220    | John Woodward, . . .      | 103    |
| Thomas Johnson, . . .         | 150    | Nathan Woodward, . . .    | 180    |
| Edward Kendall, . . .         | 375    | Thomas Wetherbee, . . .   | 105    |
| Thomas Knowler, . . .         | 150    | Joel Wilder, . . .        | 480    |
| Abel Moseman, . . .           | 102    | Ephraim Wetherbee, . . .  | 200    |
| Thomas Lows, . . .            | 120    | Zachariah Whitman, . . .  | 780    |
| James Lows, Jr., . . .        | 120    | Jeduthan Warren, . . .    | 101    |
| Jonathan Minott, . . .        | 500    | Thomas Wheeler, . . .     | 103    |
| Noah Miles, . . .             | 320    | James Winship, . . .      | 200    |
| Samuel Miller, . . .          | 220    | James Winship, Jr., . . . | 102    |
| Samuel Moseman, . . .         | 600    | Cyrus Winship, . . .      | 250    |
| Isaac Miller, . . .           | 101    | Josiah Wheeler, . . .     | 775    |
| Jonas Miles, . . .            | 700    | Abner Whitney, . . .      | 101    |
| Asa Merriam, . . .            | 150    | Alpheus Whitney, . . .    | 160    |
| John Martin, . . .            | 460    | Phineas Whitney, . . .    | 275    |
| Thomas Merriam, . . .         | 320    | Nathan Whitney, . . .     | 380    |
| Samuel Merriam, . . .         | 150    | David Whitney, . . .      | 380    |
| John Miles, . . .             | 360    | John Whitney, . . .       | 520    |
| Joseph Miller, . . .          | 170    | Joel Whitney, . . .       | 105    |
| Paul Matthews, . . .          | 300    | Jonas Whitney, . . .      | 355    |
| John Murdock, . . .           | 440    | Isaac Williams, . . .     | 210    |
| Asaph Rice, (Rev.) not taxed. |        | Ahijah Wood, . . .        | 819    |
| Heman Ray, . . .              | 103    | Abel Wood, . . .          | 690    |
| Zachariah Rand, . . .         | 400    | David Wyman, . . .        | 160    |
| Jonathan Raymond, . . .       | 200    |                           |        |

The foregoing table shows the relative value of their dwellings, and their style of living, so far as the house is an index.

Westminster has never been particularly distinguished for her manufactures, though there has been, for the last thirty or forty years, a considerable amount of small articles manufactured in the place. Twenty-five or thirty years ago, the manufacture of straw braid and straw bonnets, was carried on by the ladies in their families, to the amount of eighteen or twenty thousand dollars a year ; but that business has mostly ceased. The principal manufactures, now, are paper and chairs. The returns made to the Legislature in 1855, showed a manufacture of paper of the annual value of \$79,900 ; of chairs and cabinet ware, \$95,380 ; of bread manufactured, \$15,000 ; and other small articles ;—making an aggregate of a little over \$200,000.

We have already spoken of the call and settlement of Rev. Mr. Rice, over the Congregational Society in Westminster, in 1765. He died in 1816. About two years before his death, he had a shock of the paralysis, which put an end to his public labors ; and on Feb. 22, 1815, Rev. Cyrus Mann was ordained as his colleague. Mr. Mann continued his labors with the Society till 1840, when he took a dismission, and was succeeded by Rev. Stephen S. Smith, who remained their pastor eight years. He was succeeded, successively, by Rev. Messrs. Orlando H. White, Marcus Ames, and Brown Emerson, their present pastor.

The people of Westminster were united in one religious society until 1812. At that time a small number of individuals, mostly from the northerly part of the town, uniting with their brethren in Ashburnham, formed a Methodist Society, and erected a small Meeting-house. But this Society, always small, has become extinct.

In 1816, a Society of Universal Restorationists was formed, and was incorporated in 1820. Having erected a Meeting-house, Rev. Levi Briggs was installed their pastor, Sept. 3, 1822 ; sermon by Rev. Paul Dean, of Boston. Mr. Briggs's time having expired, Rev. Charles Hudson took the pastoral care of this Church and Society in April, 1824. In April, 1825, he removed to the place, and continued his relation with the Society till the spring of 1842. Since that time, they have been supplied by Rev. Messrs. Paul

Dean, Varnum Lincoln, Quincy Whitney, and D. C. O'Daniels. The Society is now destitute of a preacher.

In 1827, a Baptist Society was organized, and in 1829 they erected a brick Meeting-house; in March, 1830, constituted a Church; and Rev. Appleton Morse was ordained over this Society, and one in Princeton, October 20, 1830; sermon by Rev. Prof. Chase, of Newton. Mr. Morse was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Sanderson, and he, by Rev. Messrs. David Wright, Caleb Brown, George D. Felton, Chandler Curtis, J. E. Forbush, George Carpenter, and others. Their Meeting-house is secured to the Baptists forever by a trust deed, and all the pew-owners hold their pews on condition that "The Church reserve the right of calling, settling, continuing and dismissing the minister." Such provisions are of doubtful expediency; and generally tend to alienate, rather than unite, any Christian society.

Situated upon the height of land, where the water is pure and the air salubrious, Westminster has always been remarkable for the health of its inhabitants. The bills of mortality show many cases of remarkable longevity. Few towns, of the same population, can present so large a list of aged persons, who have died within the last fifty years. The records, in this respect, are quite imperfect; many deaths being set down without any mention of the age,—and yet they present the following striking facts.

From 1800 to 1814, inclusive, when the record was very meagre, there were recorded sixteen deaths of persons over 80 years of age, viz., two of 80; two of 81; two of 82; three of 83; two of 84; one of 85; one of 86; one of 87; and two of 90. From 1815 to 1830, inclusive, there were forty-five persons who were 80 years and upwards, viz., eleven of 80; one of 81; three of 82; four of 83; four of 84; four of 85; seven of 86; one of 87; one of 88; five of 90; two of 92; one of 94; and one of 96. From 1835 to 1859, inclusive, there were one hundred and five persons who died in town, of 80 years and upwards, viz., twenty-seven of 80; four of 81; four of 82; six of 83; twelve of 84; four of 85; five of 86; two of 87; twelve of 88; two of 89; ten of 90; three of 91; two of 92; two of 93; two of 94; two of 96; two of 97; one of 98; one of 99; and one of 100.

There are several instances, rather remarkable, of husband and wife both living to great age, and dying at nearly the same time.



Richard Baker died 1808, aged 80 ; his wife died 1813, aged 78. Richard Graves died 1798, aged 88 ; his wife died 1800, aged 87. Seth Harrington died 1815, aged 86 ; his wife died 1811, aged 85. Elias Holden died 1838 ; his wife died 1839, aged 76. Abner Holden died 1805, aged 81 ; his wife died 1812, aged 83. Ebenzer Mann died 1844, aged 94 ; his wife died 1847, aged 91. Ephraim Miller died 1828, aged 85 ; his wife died 1824, aged 85. Thomas Merriam died 1821, aged 90, his wife died 1819, aged 80. John Miles died 1808, aged 81 ; his wife died 1808, aged 83. Samuel Moseman died 1852, aged 80 ; his wife died 1851, aged 77. Jonathan Sawin died 1822, aged 87 ; his wife died 1826, aged 91. Nathan Whitney died 1851, aged 87 ; his wife died 1849, aged 79. These examples show the longevity of the inhabitants of Westminster, and speak well for the health of the place.

As I have given this Address so much of a historical character, I will carry out the plan, by giving a brief sketch of the situation, extent, and topography of the township.

Westminster is a post-town in the northern part of Worcester County, situated on the ridge of highlands which divide the waters that flow into the Merrimack river, from those that flow into the Connecticut. It lies in latitude  $42^{\circ} 23'$  N. and in longitude  $5^{\circ} 1'$  E. from the meridian of Washington ; and is about twenty-one miles north from Worcester, and about fifty-four miles West North-West from Boston. It is bounded northerly by Ashburnham, easterly by Fitchburg and Leominster, southerly by Princeton and Hubbardston, and westerly by Hubbardston and Gardner.

The principal village is situated on the old post road from Boston to Brattleborough, and consists of between sixty and seventy dwelling-houses, three English and West India goods stores, and several mechanics' shops. There are also two churches, and an academy in the village. The Common, containing about four acres, is about sixty rods from the centre of the village. It is situated on the summit of a large swell of land, elevated sixty or eighty feet above the village, and commands an extensive and delightful prospect. At the base of this hill, on the one side, glides a stream of water which flows from the swamps westerly of the village, while on the other is spread out the Westminster pond, a beautiful sheet of water, covering about one hundred and seventy acres. And while these attractions lie at the base of the hill, a more distant

view gives you a great variety of hills and dales, spread out in native rudeness and beauty. On the one hand, stands the lofty Wachusett, whose elevated head is "conspicuous far o'er all the hills around ;" and on the other, at about twenty miles distant, the grand Monadnock, with brow half seen and half concealed in clouds, bounds the prospect of the beholder. And while these lofty elevations stand as watch-towers to the south and the north, the eastern horizon is studded with lesser heights and with the villages of Groton and Westford, whose spires reflect the last rays of the setting sun.

There was formerly an important line of travel passing through this town. The stages from Greenfield and Brattleboro' passed daily, in both directions, through the village, and the stages from Keene passed through the northerly part of the town ; but since the opening of the Cheshire, and the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroads, the travel is diverted in a great degree from the centre of the town. The railroad passes through the northerly and easterly portions of the town, but the station is about two miles from the village.

Lying upon the mountain range, the township is of course elevated. The village is nearly eleven hundred feet above tide-water, and more than nine hundred feet above the mouth of Miller's river at Montague. Situated between the Wachusett and the Monadnock, the winters are more severe, and the snows fall in greater depth, than in most towns in the same latitude. But the summers are delightful ; the pure and bracing air gives a buoyancy of spirits and a glow of health, which richly compensates for the frosts of winter.

The surface of the township is generally rocky and uneven ; but rising in large and gradual swells, the soil is not generally broken. The Wachusett mountain, in Princeton, has the northern portion of its base within the town of Westminster. There are other elevations in the town, of considerable magnitude. The soil is generally moist and strong, and under a high state of cultivation, would be very productive. It is a good grazing town. The territory is remarkably well watered. Being upon the summit, the streams are comparatively small, and yet there is a large quantity of water flowing from the town. The Westminster and Wachusett ponds, containing an aggregate of nearly three hundred and fifty acres, and being fed by springs from the circumjacent hills, furnish a

good supply of water. Besides, there are several large ranges of swampy land, from which considerable streams issue. Almost the whole of the stream at Fitchburg, which constitutes the northern branch of the Nashua, comes from or through the township of Westminster. And in addition to the waters which flow easterly into the Nashua, Westminster sends her tributaries westerly into Miller's, and south-westerly into Chicopee river. Thus standing on an eminence, between the Connecticut and the Merrimack, Westminster regards them with impartiality, and liberally imparts her favors to the two principal rivers in the State.

Westminster has never been particularly noted for being the birth-place or residence of distinguished men. Rev. John Miles, for many years a settled clergyman in Grafton, was a native of the place. Hon. Abijah Bigelow of Worcester, who was Clerk of the Courts of Worcester County, and who represented the District in Congress, originated here. Hon. Solomon Strong, who was also a member of Congress, and afterwards Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, made Westminster, for a time, the place of his residence. Clough R. Miles, Esq., of Millbury, a lawyer of considerable distinction, was a native of this town. Hon. Charles Hudson of Lexington, while residing in Westminster, which he did for nearly twenty-five years, represented in part the County of Worcester six years in the Senate of Massachusetts, three years in the Executive Council, and the District eight years in Congress. Dr. John White, a physician in Watertown, New York, a son of Deacon James White, was born in Westminster, where he practiced medicine more than twenty years. Dr. Flavel Cutting, who practiced medicine in Westminster many years, was born of Westminster parents. Rev. Asaph Merriam, Rev. Charles Kendall, a clergyman now of Petersham, son of Edward Kendall, Esq., were born in this place; as was Rev. Joseph Peckham of Kingston, and Rev. Franklin Merriam, now of New Boston, New Hampshire. Hon. Giles H. Whitney of Winchendon, who has represented the County in part in the Senate, resided at one time in Westminster. Dr. Cyrus Mann of Stoughton, son of Rev. Cyrus Mann, was born and brought up in this town.

Joseph Wood, son of Abel Wood, Esq., graduated at Williams College, 1815, entered the ministry, and died in Alabama, 1837. Theodore S. Wood, son of Ezra, graduated at Amherst, 1833, and

died in Andover while at the Theological School, 1835. Franklin Wood, son of Deacon B. F. Wood, graduated at Dartmouth, 1841; is now a teacher in Minnesota. Abel Wood, son of Deacon B. F. Wood, graduated at Dartmouth, 1843, studied divinity, and is now one of the teachers in Meriden Academy, New Hampshire. Dr. Joel W. Wyman, a physician in South Carolina, and Dr. John L. White, were natives of this town. The latter is in Illinois. Westminster has also sent out quite a number of teachers. A. Holden Merriam, J. Russell Gaut, William S. Heywood, Francis S. Heywood, and Porter P. Heywood, William F. and Edward E. Bradbury, besides a large number of females from this town, have been employed as teachers in this and distant parts of the country.

In this enumeration, we should not overlook the pious and devoted females, who have relinquished the pleasures and joys of home, and have voluntarily exiled themselves from the comforts of civilized society, to spread the Gospel among the heathen. Myra Wood, daughter of Abel Wood, Esq., married Rev. David O. Allen, a Missionary to Bombay. She accompanied him, in 1827, to that place, and died there, in 1831, in the thirtieth year of her age. Mary Sawyer, daughter of Jacob Sawyer, and granddaughter of Rev. Asaph Rice, of Westminster, married Rev. William C. Jackson, a Missionary to the East, and spent several years at Trebizond and vicinity, in the neighborhood of the Black Sea.

The question is sometimes asked, by what title we hold our lands? Were they purchased, or how was the Indian title extinguished? It is not easy, perhaps, to give a specific answer to these questions. But a statement of the facts in the case, will make the matter tolerably clear. So far as the first settlers were concerned, it is sufficient to say that they held under the grant of the General Court. If there is any difficulty in the case—any wrong done to the native tribes, it was done by the body politic, and not by those who established themselves in this township. For at the time of the first settlement here, this region was destitute of inhabitants.

In order to judge correctly of the justice and equity of the policy of our fathers toward the native tribes, it is important to recur to first principles. When God created man, he said unto him, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, *and*

*subdue it.*" It is apparent that a people who subdue the soil, and fit it for the habitation of man, have in the abstract, a better title to the land, than a people who simply roam over it, to hunt and to fish. It is also apparent that a given section of country will support a vastly greater population of civilized than of savage men ; so that the great and benevolent plan of Providence is promoted, by a savage race giving place to a civilized one. No enlightened Christian, therefore, can lament that an uncivilized, pagan nation, fades away before a civilized, Christian nation. To murmur at this, is to murmur at the order of Providence.

But this can never justify any oppression, or fraud, or injustice, on the part of the stronger or civilized race. Were our fathers guilty of any fraud, or injustice, towards the natives ? This is the question to be settled. For the sake of brevity, I confine myself to this section of the Commonwealth. It is a well known fact, that some eight years before the landing of the Pilgrims, the Massachusetts, a tribe which held possession of this part of the State, had been visited by a dreadful pestilence, which had reduced their numbers from many thousands, to a few hundreds ; so that this section of the country was almost depopulated, when the Massachusetts Colony was first established here. It will hardly be maintained that a few hundred wild men of the woods ought to hold the whole of this delightful country against the claims of a more civilized people, who were driven by oppression from their native land.

The English emigrants were, even in view of the "higher law," entitled to a footing in this country. There was vacant land enough for the red men and for the white. And the toil in crossing the ocean gave them a title to the vacant lands, not much inferior to that of the Indians, who never mingled their labor with the soil. Where the natives were in possession—where they had habitations and fields and accustomed hunting-grounds—their claims should be regarded as paramount, and respected accordingly. But it seems to be straining the point to say, that a few wild men of the woods had a vendable right in the soil throughout hundreds of miles of wilderness, simply because they, or their fathers, had in a few instances roamed over some portions of it in quest of game.

Besides, when the Chiefs of the Massachusetts, the Nashuas, and other tribes, put themselves under the Massachusetts Colony,

in 1644, they virtually relinquished their jurisdiction over the unsettled sections of the country. Westminster was probably never permanently occupied by any of the native tribes. The Nashuas, who resided in that part of Lancaster which now constitutes Sterling, perhaps visited temporarily the section near the Wachusett pond ; but they never made it a permanent place of residence. So that the General Court might have felt themselves at liberty, ever after 1644, to grant this township to any settlers.

But another important event occurred before this township was granted. When the Nashuas joined Philip, in 1675, as they did in a good degree, in violation of their treaty, they put all their country at the hazard of the contest ; and the English settlements in the Colony, by the arbitrament of arms, came into possession of this portion of the country, though they did not in fact take possession of it till more than half a century after, when it had been for years abandoned by the Indians.

This general view of the subject shows, that the General Court had a title to this section of the State, at the time they granted the township, which would then, and now, be considered valid by the law of nations, as it is understood in the most enlightened and civilized countries.

But behind all this lies a question of moral right, which we have no disposition to overlook. The rights of war will never justify fraud or injustice. How then did our fathers treat the natives ? In most instances they were treated fairly, and even kindly, by the Massachusetts Colony. After their voluntary submission, in 1644, wherever they had settlements, they were protected in their possessions ; and whenever they desired grants of land, these grants were cheerfully made. The Natick Indians had a plantation laid out for them, as early as 1652 ; and even earlier than that, they were allowed to bring actions in the Courts of the Colony to maintain titles to their lands. And in 1652, it " was ordered and enacted by this Court, that what lands any of the Indians, within this jurisdiction, have by possession, or improvement, by subduing the same, they have just right thereunto." These rights were, I believe, in all cases, respected by the Colony, and in numerous cases grants were made to them. We might instance the grants at Marlborough, Grafton, and many other places. And to show that this faith has been kept, we can point to the grants that are made to this day to the Indians at Grafton, Gay Head, Marshpee, and

other places. We could also point to numerous localities, where the Indian titles have been extinguished by purchase.

That there are individual cases, where the Indians have been defrauded, there can be no doubt. But this was generally done by unprincipled individuals, rather than by the body politic. And wherever injustice has been practiced, the fact that the defrauded party was the uncivilized Indian, aggravates, rather than extenuates the crime. An expiring nation, like expiring individuals, should be regarded with sympathy, and treated with kindness; and the individual, or the community, which violates this obvious principle, is guilty of a wrong, for which they must atone.

If it were possible, I should like to present an exact picture of the condition of society as it existed one hundred years ago, that you might see what strange mutations a century has wrought. These hills and dales are in their general outlines the same; but all their surroundings are changed. Thick forests of pine have given place to fields of golden grain, and the rivulets which then forced their way amid decaying trunks of prostrate trees, or gurgled through dense thickets of alders, now flow gracefully through meadows waving with grass, and yielding a full repast for the tenants of the stall. The hillsides, which resounded with the wild howl of beasts of prey, are now vocal with the lowing of gentle herds.

And the general condition of the inhabitants relative to their houses, their furniture, their dress, their food, and their modes of life, has undergone a change as great as that of the face of nature. We have seen that the first habitations of the settlers were only about eighteen feet square, and some of these were but little larger than the huge stone chimney which, for want room in the house, was actually turned out of doors. The size of the houses had increased before the district was incorporated; but the people had not, at that time, run to the other extreme, which was afterwards adopted, of erecting a large house which they were unable to finish.

But we should not suffer the rough boards, on the outside of their houses, to hide the primitive simplicity which reigned within. If you were to approach one of their humble and unpretending dwellings, on a winter's evening, avoiding the wood-pile in front of the house, three or four lusty raps with the knuckles on the door

would bring a hearty response of "walk in," when, by pulling the latch-string, which was always out, and so lifting the wooden latch, the door would open, and you would find yourself in the presence of the whole family, of ten or a dozen persons, of all ages, seated around a crackling fire. The huge back-log, which was rolled into the fire-place in the morning, and which had manfully resisted the blazing element through the day, would be seen yielding the ascendancy, and furnishing a mass of burning coals, sufficient to smelt the most sullen ore.

By the blaze of the pine knots, which illuminated the room, you would have the family group in full view before you. In one corner sits the aged grandma'am, in a rude oaken chair, bottomed with strips of elm bark or raw hide ; while in the other corner, on a huge settle, whose high-boarded back was designed to intercept old Boreas in his passage from the shrunken boards and broken windows, to the open-mouthed chimney, are seen three or four children, giving visible symptoms that the time had arrived to draw out what, in latter days, and in more advanced stages of civilization, would be denominated a "trundle bed," and to consign them to repose. On the long block within the jambs, and yet at a respectable distance from the fire, two or three older urchins are playing their sly tricks, and endangering the vessel near them, filled, not with Tyrean dye, but with what would sufficiently tinge the *four-skein* yarn, which the hum of the wheel gives evidence is being produced, and so fit it for use.

If the blaze of the green wood falters, or the pine lamps become dim, they are revived and replenished, by the shavings produced from the birch broom, which the good man of the house is peeling, or from those of the wooden spoons, which another member of the masculines is whittling out for the next repast from the tray of bean porridge, still in its minority, being less than "nine days old."

A survey of the furniture would at once convince you that nature's wants were few, and easily supplied. The settle supplied the place of the sofa—the form, of the lounge—and the block, of the ottoman. A single rude table sufficed for a centre, a dining, and a tea-table ; and in its composition, a pine board supplanted the marble slab, the mahogany, and the black walnut. Their china closet, or what was then generally denominated a *dresser*, consisted of two or three shelves, nailed to the side of the house,



on which were deposited a few wooden trenchers or plates, a tray, wooden spoons and wooden bowls, all of home production, a pewter or brown earthen mug, and a few knives and forks. A wooden shovel or *peel*, served to stir the embers, or rake up the fire ; and a broom, of peeled birch or of hemlock boughs, to sweep the room or brush up the ashes.

Their dress was in keeping with their furniture. Plain, simple home-spun, excluded the silks and the satins, and linsey-woolsey displaced a hundred nameless French fabrics, with which the market at this day is glutted. The checked apron, the "sheep's gray" trowsers, the woolen or tow shirt, and the various articles of wool or flax, colored with maple, walnut, apple-tree, or some other bark, constituted the dress of the family, on ordinary occasions ; while the Sabbath might bring to view a calico dress, or some article of foreign production. On the fashion of dresses, however, I shall not dwell. This subject is too *expansive* to be *encircled* on an occasion like the present. But in the midst of this simplicity, we find some article of furniture, like a clock, a chair, or a looking-glass ; or some ornament, like a pair of shoe or knee-buckles, which had come down from European ancestors, cherished with a fond pride, and displayed with an air of no small satisfaction.

Their living, a hundred years ago, was as simple as their dress. Meat, and bread and milk, were their principal dependence. Salt beef and pork, rye and Indian bread, beans, turnips and cabbages, constituted their daily fare. The potato being at that time in a great measure unknown, and rarely cultivated, the bean was extensively used, both as a solid and a liquid food ; so that bean-porridge was not only a household word, but a household repast. Tea was but little used, and coffee scarcely known. Beer and cider constituted their principal beverage ; though the bewitching drink of distilled spirits was indulged in on public occasions.

In taking a survey of the past, not only the manners and customs, but the characters of our fathers naturally present themselves. Without attempting a full analysis of their characters, we may safely say, that being men, they had their follies and infirmities, and were characterized by the faults of the age in which they lived. I shall be pardoned, I trust, if I say a word on their religious character, which was the most salient point among our forefathers. That they were a religious people, no one can doubt ; and that their religion assumed a stern and uncompromising type,

is readily admitted. We may concede, too, that they were tinctured with superstition, and cherished, in some degree, a persecuting spirit.

Let us contemplate their character as thus presented. Their habitual trust in God, and their abiding conviction that they had a great work to perform, amid difficulties and dangers, and were in a manner the appointed agents of the Most High, to establish a pure and vital religion in this wilderness, gave them an energy, a zeal, and persistency of character, which showed itself in their whole life. And if they manifested inordinate zeal, or exhibited too much sternness of character, these were but the infirmities of that vigorous faith which they so fondly cherished. And if they imbibed something of a persecuting spirit, they have the apology, that the spirit of toleration, and the virtue of forbearance, were in a great measure unknown in that age of the world.

Our Fathers were in advance of the age in their ardent devotion to God, in their trust in divine Providence, and in their unconquerable love of civil and religious liberty; and it is requiring too much of them to expect perfection in all things, because they excelled in many. Admit, if you please, that they had defects of character; they were the very defects which would naturally flow from their stern, manly virtues, and from the spirit of the age in which they lived. The part they had to act in the plan of divine Providence, led them to contemplate the Almighty in the character of a Ruler, rather than that of a Father, and fitted them to perform the important duty of establishing our civil institutions on a broad, religious basis. Had they been less stern in their manners, less fixed in their principles, and more yielding and compromising in their policy, they would probably have failed in their grand enterprise, of founding a free state on the great principles of religion.

Though we may find some things in their conduct to condemn, there are more to approve. Their stern, incorruptible integrity, their persistent perseverance, and their self-sacrificing spirit, have given to New England a character of which we may justly be proud. "History," it is said, "shows their faults." We rejoice that it does; for this proves the fidelity of history, by showing that they were men. We rejoice that faithful historians have pointed out their failings as well as their manly virtues; so that we may have many things to imitate, as well as a few things to

shun. And happy will it be for us, if after-generations can review our characters, with as few regrets, and with as much satisfaction as we experience, this day, when we contemplate the characters of our ancestors. Give me the stern integrity, the fixed determination, the manly, unconquerable perseverance, and the unfaltering faith of our Puritan ancestors, and I have the very materials of which to form characters which will stand in the day of trial. Give me these, and I will readily dispense with the easy virtue, the compromising policy, and the ethereal, speculative doubtings of this age of boasted progress and refinement.

*Fellow Citizens of Westminster :*

Though I cannot claim kindred with your inhabitants, or boast of being born upon your soil, yet your town is endeared to me by a residence of a quarter of a century, and your people by a long, friendly, and intimate acquaintance. Here I have mingled with your people in every situation of life. I have stood by the bed-side of the dying, shed the sympathetic tear with the mourner, and followed some of your valued citizens to the grave. Here I have visited your children in the schools, united some of you in bands of holy wedlock, and joined in your social circles. Here, too, I received the first testimonial of political confidence, which brought my name before a confiding and generous public, which for twenty-five years in succession, sustained me in places of honor and of trust.

There are associations of a more private and tender character, which ally me to this place. It was here that I commenced my domestic life, by assuming the interesting and responsible relations of a husband and a father. It was here, that, amid a tender and generous sympathy, I was called to part with my early companion and two endearing children, whose earthly remains rest beneath your soil. This town is the birth-place of my surviving children, who drew their first vital breath upon this consecrated Hill.

The familiar faces I see before me ; the cordial greetings I have received this morning ; your beautiful natural scenery ; the trees by your road-sides ; “ your rocks and your rills ; ” your fresh and invigorating atmosphere, whose gentle breezes move your leafy groves, and whose stronger blasts murmur through the bending branches of these aged elms ; the school-houses dedicated to the young, and the village spires pointing upward as if to guide us to heaven, or

draw down blessings upon our heads;—these conspire to revive former recollections, and more youthful feelings, and create in my breast the emotions of the child who has returned to his father's house to spend a true and joyous Thanksgiving, in the old family mansion.

And never, oh never, while memory remains, shall the recollections of WESTMINSTER cease to retain a place in my thoughts and affections. And while many of her absent native sons have this day returned to lay their filial offering of joy and gratitude at her feet, I fondly hope that I may, without intrusion, join in the general tribute; and, with them, unite in a fervent prayer for her future prosperity and happiness.

## A P P E N D I X .

---

### A LIST OF THE GRANTEES FOR THE NARRAGANSET TOWNSHIP, NO. 2, AS MADE UP IN 1732.

#### CAMBRIDGE.

William Russell, (then living.)  
Gershom Cutter, (then living.)  
Joseph Bemas, for his father, Joseph.  
Jonathan Remington, Esq., for his father, Capt. Remington.  
Downing Champney, for his father, Samuel.  
Jonathan Bathrick, for his father, Thomas.  
Peter Hay, for his brother-in-law, John Barrel.  
William Gleason, for his father, William.  
The heirs of John Smith.  
Samuel Smith, for his uncle, Samuel.  
The heirs of Joseph Smith.  
The heirs of Nathaniel Smith.  
The heirs of Thomas Brown.  
Jonathan Gates, for his father, Simon.  
Thomas Wellington, for his uncle, John.  
William Brattle, Esq., for his grandfather, Thomas Brattle.  
Daniel Cheever, for his uncle, James Cheever.

#### CHARLESTOWN.

James Lowden, (then living.)  
Samuel Read, (then living.)  
Henry Sumers, (then living.)  
Robert Fosket, for his father, John.  
Thomas Skinner, for his uncle, Isaac Lewis.  
Samuel Fosket, for his father, Samuel.  
Samuel Long, for his uncle, Samuel Newell.  
Magry Dowse, for father, Joseph.  
Nathaniel Goodwin, for his uncle, Benjamin Lathrop.  
James Smith's heir, namely, Jonathan Call.  
Joseph Pratt's heirs.

Samuel Lanmon's heirs.  
 William Burt's heirs.  
 Jacob Cole's heirs.  
 John Moseley's heirs.  
 Humphrey Miller's heirs.  
 John Hawkins's heirs.  
 John Trumbull's heirs.  
 Alexander Phillips's heirs.  
 George Mudge's heirs.  
 John Shepherd's heirs.  
 Thomas Welch's heirs.  
 John Grind's heirs.  
 Joseph Lynd's heirs.  
 Timothy Cutler's heirs.  
 James S. Little, for his father.  
 Thomas Genner's heirs.  
 John Griffin, heir to Matthew Griffin.  
 Ebenezer Breed, for his father, John.  
 Zachariah Davis, for his uncle, Hopstil Davis.  
 John Sprague, for his father, Jonathan.  
 Eleazer Johnson, for his father, Edward.  
 John Senter, for his father, John.

#### WATERTOWN.

John Sawin, for his father, Thomas.  
 Ephraim Cutter, (then living.)  
 Jonas Cutting, for his father, James.  
 John Barnerd, (then living.)  
 Joshua Bigelow, (then living.)  
 William Shattuck, (then living.)  
 Joseph Grout, for his father, Joseph Grout.  
 Zachariah Smith, for his father, Jonathan Smith.  
 Samuel Hager, for his father, John Hager.  
 George Harrington's heirs.  
 John Harrington, (then living.)  
 Joseph Priest, for his father, Joseph.  
 Zechariah Cutting, (then living.)  
 John Bright, for his uncle, John.  
 George Pameter, for his father, William.  
 Joseph Ball, for his uncle, Jacob Bullard.  
 Thomas Harrington, for his wife's father, Timothy Rice.  
 John Sherman, for his uncle, John.

Capt. Joseph Bowman, for his wife's uncle, James Barnerd,  
 Joseph Smith, for his father, Joseph.  
 Richard Beers, for his father, Elnathan.  
 Michael Flag's heirs.  
 Capt. Joseph Bowman, for his wife's father, John Barnerd.  
 John Cutting, for his father, John Cutting.  
 The heirs of Doct. Wellington.  
 The heirs of Benjamin Wellington.

#### WESTON.

Ebenezer Boynton, for his wife's father, Caleb Grout.  
 Onesiphorus Pike, for his father, James Pike.  
 Thomas Cory, for his father, Thomas.  
 Nathaniel Norcross, for Jeremiah Norcross.  
 Daniel Warren, (then living.)

#### SUDBURY.

Matthew Gibbs, (then living.)  
 Richard Taylor, for his father, Richard.  
 Thomas Taylor, for his father, Sebred.  
 John Marston, (then living.)  
 John Parkhurst, for his father, John.  
 Denis Hedly, (then living.)  
 John Adams, (then living.)  
 Benjamin Parmeter, for his brother, Joseph.  
 Joseph Rutter, for his father, Thomas.  
 Ebenezer Graves, for his father, Joseph Graves.  
 John More, for his father, Joseph.

#### NEWTON.

Edward Jackson, for his father, Seborn.  
 Nathaniel Haly, (then living.)  
 Isaac Beech, for his brother, Richard Beech.  
 Stephen Cook, (then living.)  
 John Park, for his father, John.  
 Jonathan Willard, for his father, Jacob.  
 The heirs of Capt. Thomas Prentice.

#### MEDFORD.

William Willis, for his father, Thomas.  
 John Hall, for Capt. Seill.  
 John Whitmore, for his father, John.

## MALDEN.

John Mudge, (then living.)  
 Samuel Kneeland, assignee to Phineas Upham.  
 Abraham Skinner, for his father, Abraham.  
 James Cheak's heirs.  
 John Winslow, for his father, John.  
 William Willis, for the heirs of John Bachelor.

## READING.

Nathaniel Parker, for his uncle, Jonathan.  
 Richard Brown, for his uncle, Edmon.  
 Thomas Nichols, (then living.)  
 Major Swain's heirs.  
 Isaac Williams's heirs.  
 Benjamin Davis's heirs.  
 Samuel Lampson, for his father, Samuel.  
 Thomas Hodgman's heirs.  
 Richard Upham, for his father, Phineas.  
 Samuel Chandler, for William Jones.

*A true Copy of Records in my Office.*

Attest.      SAMUEL G. KENDALL, *Town Clerk.*

*Westminster, Feb. 11, 1857.*



P O E M ,

BY

W I L L I A M   S .   H A Y W O O D .

Westminster, December 1, 1859.

MR. WILLIAM S. HAYWOOD:

*Dear Sir:*—We respectfully ask you for a copy of your Poem, delivered at our Centennial Celebration in October last, that it may be published with the Address and Proceedings connected with that event.

With great respect, yours,

BENJAMIN WYMAN,  
JOEL MERRIAM, JR.  
WILLIAM S. BRADBURY,  
*Committee of Publication.*

---

MESSRS. WYMAN, MERRIAM, AND BRADBURY,  
*Committee on Printing, &c.:*

*Gentlemen:*—Your favor of the 1st inst., received by due course of mail, is hereby acknowledged. I cheerfully comply with your request, to furnish for the press a copy of the Poem prepared and delivered by me at the Centennial Celebration of the Incorporation of my native town, and herewith commit to your hands the manuscript for the purpose designated. Happy in doing my part to render the occasion referred to pleasant and profitable, I am also happy in offering a tribute of good-will to the sons and daughters of old Westminster, with many of whom I was more or less intimately associated in former years, and of many of whom pleasing memories linger still to gladden and to bless. The production, which you seem disposed to dignify with the name of Poem, makes no pretension to poetical precision and finish; it only claims the merit of being the simple, heartfelt outbreathing of the deeper and better feeling of the author. I present it to you and to those for whom you act,—to all the children of my native town, wherever they may be, in the hope that, while its more particularly local allusions and reflections may tend to revive and perpetuate many grateful associations, its general views of Man, Life, and Duty, may serve to stimulate to high resolve, lofty endeavor, and glorious achievement, in the pathway of all that is noble, and virtuous, and godlike.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours, very respectfully,

WM. S. HAYWOOD.

*Hopedale, Milford, Mass., December 7, 1859.*

## P O E M .

---

WESTMINSTER celebrates to-day  
Her Hundredth Anniversary.  
Proud in the fullness of her years,  
Her history telling in our ears,  
With speech, and poetry, and song,  
With festal pleasures that belong  
To such events, with wit and mirth,  
She justly honors now her birth.  
Out to the breeze her banner flings,  
Lays wide her store of bounteous things,  
Her messages of love sends forth  
To East and West, to South and North.  
Bidding her roaming children come,  
Visit once more their earlier home,  
And gather round her cheerful board,  
Laden with what her stores afford ;  
Seek out old friends and new relations,  
Revive the lost associations,  
Live yet again the mystic past  
From which Time hurries on so fast,  
The once familiar walks tread o'er,  
Retreats, hallowed in days of yore,  
And, 'mid the scenes of glad reünion,  
With greetings and with sweet communion,  
To find such welcome and such cheer  
As can but gladden many a year.  
And we are come ; the inviting word  
By our quite willing ears is heard.  
With joy we come, from near and far,  
Our heart's desire a guiding star,

From North and South, from West and East,  
 To sit and share this natal feast.  
 We come from many a varied sphere ;  
 We come from new homes that are dear ;  
 We come to bring a tribute meet,  
 And lay at old Westminster's feet.  
 For, in the divers walks and ways  
 We've traveled since the former days,  
 Through all the changes of our lot,  
 We ne'er our native town forgot ;  
 But, at the mention of her name,  
 There always flashed a hidden flame  
 Of grateful love within the breast—  
 A quick response that made us blest.  
 Yes, we are here, the wandering ones  
 Whose course of duty elsewhere runs ;  
 And those who, faithful, still remain  
 The honored landmarks to maintain.  
 We all are here—the father, mother,  
 The son and daughter, sister, brother,  
 The friends of near and distant tie,  
 Met face to face, and eye to eye,  
 Rejoicing in each other's love,  
 In blessings from our God above.  
 Yet all are not here ; there are some  
 Who from their duties could not come ;  
 Some, far away on land or sea,  
 Have yet to learn of this day of glee ;  
 Some waste in sickness, and some bless  
 Their fellow-creatures in distress ;  
 While others still, oppressed by want,  
 Would fain be with us, but they can't.  
 Hence, though we here are quite a host,  
 The *absent* number far the most.  
 They all tread not the shores of Time ;  
 How many are in another clime !  
 Who hath no parent, child, or friend,  
 Brother or sister, seen descend  
 To the dark vale, the vale of death,  
 Yielding up there the mortal breath ?  
 Dark vale, indeed, save as the light  
 Of Truth and Love makes all things bright.

With one fond thought to the mortal dear,  
 And one to those of the unseen sphere,  
 My muse would lead us still along  
 To other themes by her humble song.

A hundred years ! What hopes and fears,  
 What joys and griefs, in a hundred years !  
 What changes—fortunes made and lost !  
 What woes, what feasts of Pentecost !  
 What crimes, what sacraments of blood !  
 What movements for all human good !  
 Kingdoms destroyed, thrones overturned,  
 Empires laid waste, and cities burned ;  
 Inventions multiplied, the hand  
 Of Art enlivens every land.  
 Philanthropies spring forth, and words  
 Of truth contend for power with swords.  
 New principles are born—not born,  
 They live forever, tyrants' scorn.  
 New light breaks forth with joy and love,  
 As hastening seasons onward move.  
 Men throughout earth grow good and wise,  
 And in the scale of being rise.  
 But who can tell all that appears  
 As fruit of the last hundred years !  
 A hundred years have come and gone  
 Since there was laid the corner-stone  
 Of this, our native town ; the men—  
 Oh, where are they who served her then ?  
 They come not here their tale to tell—  
 (Tale other lips have told so well)—  
 They've passed beyond their earthly lot ;  
 Places that knew them, know them not.  
 So we, too, their descendants, pass,  
 As morning dew from waving grass.  
 And, ere a century returns,  
 The fire of mortal life that burns  
 However brightly now, will die  
 Within us, while goes rolling by  
 The tide of being ever swelling,  
 And deepening with divine indwelling.

Ah ! as life's onward march is beating,  
 Leave we a story worth repeating,—  
 A story other hearts to swell,  
 That we have done our work so well ?

Hail to our native place ! we bless her,  
 And in our festal joy caress her.  
 We come and filial homage pay  
 On this her Anniversary.  
 Why not ? O, can we treat with scorn,  
 Or hate the spot where we were born ?  
 No, no ! with heartfelt, glad acclaim,  
 We'll chant our peans to her name.  
 Whatever be our avocation,  
 Or high or low our earthly station,  
 Mechanic, Merchant, Farmer, Clown,  
 Dependent, aided by the town,  
 Shoemaker, Doctor, Lawyer, Preacher,  
 Or Hostler, Painter, Blacksmith, Teacher,  
 A Landlord, Baker, Saddler, Spinster,  
 We'll honor give to old Westminster.  
 Gifts to her altar will we bring ;  
 Her many praises will we sing.  
 Behold her in each outward feature  
 A part of all-surrounding nature ;—  
 A hand divine these hills among  
 Laid her foundations deep and strong,  
 And over them in order spread ,  
 A richer or a poorer bed  
 Of earthy matter—mould or soil,  
 Calling her sons to noble toil—  
 From which, the customary courses  
 Of nature's own inherent forces  
 Give birth, with seeming exultation,  
 To countless forms of vegetation.  
 How pleasant and how fair of face  
 Of varied beauty and of grace  
 Westminster wears ! See hill and dell,  
 What nature's lovers love so well,  
 See running streamlet, brook, or river,  
 Which hastes the landscapes to dis sever.

Here too are lakelets, forests, flowers,  
 Quiet retreats and leafy bowers,  
 While breathing zephyrs, fresh and clear,  
 Oft come as from some purer sphere,  
 Spread health and vigor all around.  
 That joy and gladness may abound.  
 And over all what fairer skies  
 In solemn majesty can rise !  
 The sun by day, the moon by night,  
 Each sheds its own peculiar light ;  
 And stars look down from where they're set  
 Like gems in nature's coronet.  
 The same Aurora heralds day,  
 Chasing the damps of night away,  
 That breaks on fair Sicilian lands,  
 Or gilds the morn on Italy's strands.  
 In this old town, as in those places  
 Renowned for storied charms and graces,  
 The Great Unseen his power makes known.  
 His changeless goodness here hath shown,  
 That tongue and raptured heart may tell,  
 " Our Father doeth all things well."

Westminster,—Is it more than meet  
 We lay our offering at her feet ?  
 Here had we birth ; our being's sun  
 Here rose, its endless course to run ;  
 Here opened we our infant eyes  
 On beauties of both earth and skies ;  
 Here were unsealed our infant ears  
 To music of the outer spheres.  
 And thus was launched our feeble bark  
 Upon life's ocean, stormy, dark,  
 Ofttimes, yet having more of good  
 Than ill, if rightly understood.  
 Here shared we first a parent's love,  
 Hovering o'er us like a dove ;  
 Experienced all the joys of home  
 Ere cares and toils to us had come ;  
 Here dawned upon our inner sense  
 Wisdom and love of Providence ;

Here went we forth in earlier days,  
 Where wonders met our every gaze,  
 To find delights that nature brings.  
 To glory in her offerings,  
 To catch her life, to feel the thrill  
 She sent through all our heart and will,  
 Inhale her breath, to hear her sound,  
 Behold her glories spread around,  
 And, by the paths the true have trod,  
 Be led by her up to our God.  
 And here, perhaps, we earliest quaffed  
 Of sorrow's deep and bitter draught,—  
 Our very hearts asunder riven  
 With shafts by sad affliction driven.  
 But yet, whatever were our lot  
 While dwelling on this cherished spot,  
 Where'er we are, where'er we go  
 In all this changing world below,  
 Our souls will turn with glad some thrills  
 To this old town among the hills,  
 And hallowed memories shall move  
 Our hearts to earnest, filial love.  
 And may not sweet emotions rise  
 At thoughts of her, beyond the skies?  
 What farther tribute can we pay  
 At our fond birthplace shrine to-day?  
 She may not boast of sons of fame,—  
 Men who have gained a sounding name;  
 Of conquerors she may not boast,  
 Leading to blood a murderous host;  
 Of geniuses, wondrous and rare,  
 On whom a gaping world may stare;  
 Of mighty men, as men count might,  
 Before whom others quake with fright;  
 She may not boast of children great,  
 Reckoned by human estimate;—  
 Of sons, who have high rank or station  
 In either Church, or State, or Nation;  
 Or daughters eminent, whose praise  
 Is chanted in melodious lays.  
 But, wanting these, 'tis no great loss,  
 Since Christs and Saviors find a cross,



And men of loftiest purity  
 Are left in lone obscurity  
 As often as they wear a crown,  
 While villains sometimes get renown,  
 And it *may* be, though she can claim  
 No son or daughter known to fame,  
 She has what's better, honest men  
 And women ; those who, measured when  
 Strict justice holds the scale of things,  
 Shall stand before the King of kings,—  
 While others, only great in name,  
 Fall down in self-reproach and shame.  
 I trust that in the sight of Him  
 Whose eye no show or sham can dim,  
 There are, whom this old town can boast,  
 Numbers whose worth exceeds all cost.  
 Men they are of conscience, heart,  
 Who strive to act the better part ;—  
 Women of sympathy and love,  
 Faithful in spheres in which they move,  
 Ready for each good work and word,  
 Obeying their acknowledged Lord.

But why should this occasion pass  
 Without the mention of a class  
 Of which our town may well be proud ?  
 It rises like a shining cloud  
 Of witnesses, to do her honor,  
 Laying its hands of blessing on her.  
*Her native teachers* —See, they stand  
 With willing heart and ready hand,  
 The claims of ignorance to dispute  
 And “ teach the young idea to shoot.”  
 A worthy company they are,  
 At home, abroad, or near, or far,  
 Dispelling all the shades of night,  
 Diffusing learning's ambient light,  
 And helping Science to display  
 The glories of her perfect day.  
 Teachers, go on, a goodly band,  
 Extend your influence o'er the land ;

Your mission's high and noble, strive,  
 With all your native powers alive,  
 To do your duty faithfully,  
 And scatter blessings great and free.  
 Remember always, Education,  
 Deserving of full acceptance,  
 Regards not intellect alone,  
 But makes all human parts its own ;—  
 Relates to body, mind and soul,  
 Training the powers of the whole ;  
 Comprises health, intelligence,  
 Virtue, aye, good common sense.  
 To educate, is not to train  
 To books simply ; this were but vain ;—  
 'Tis not to give a little notion,  
 A sort of Homœopathic potion  
 Of Reading, Spelling, Drawing, Writing,  
 Coldly and formally reciting.  
 To educate,—it is to make  
 Men and women, for manhood's sake  
 And womanhood's ; and all beside  
 Is fruit of folly or of pride.  
 Keep this in mind, to it be true,  
 And priceless trophies are for you.  
 In your endeavors, catch, if you can,  
 The spirit of a Horace Mann.

Lamented Mann ! Thy sun to earth too soon hath set,  
 But its effulgence gilds our western horizon yet ;  
 Thou'rt only gone before, our spirit's glad evangel,  
 Earth mourns a Mann, but Heaven hath gained—how bright an angel !

Westminster, child incorporate  
 Of Massachusetts, old Bay State.  
 The old Bay State, how fair her name !  
 Deserves she well her world-wide fame,  
 For where in all the earth around  
 Is there an equal to be found,—  
 Equal in heart, equal in mind,  
 Equal in what exalts mankind ?  
 Where is the province, where the state,  
 Empire, or kingdom, small or great ?

Search Asia's wide-spread territory,  
 Or Europe's fields, far-famed and gory,  
 Or Africa's hot, scorching sands,  
 Among the new world's virgin lands ;  
 Your task a fruitless one will prove,  
 For Massachusetts claims your love.  
 Rough though her surface, hard her soil,  
 Rock-bound her shores, inviting toil,  
 Severe her climate, low her birth,  
 She wears the crown of all the earth.  
 Even though we mourn her soil not free  
 To *all* who seek for liberty,  
 To every trembling fugitive  
 From chains, who 'neath her flag would live.  
 What constitutes her greatness? What,  
 The meed of honor she has got?  
 'Tis not the glory of an hour,  
 'Tis not her wealth, 'tis not her power  
 Of arms or law, 'tis not her trade,  
 Her commerce o'er all seas displayed,  
 'Tis not the fabric that she makes,  
 Or works of Art she undertakes,  
 'Tis not her forests, rivers, fields,  
 The products that her tillage yields ;  
 But 'tis her character, her spirit,  
 Noble and true, that gives her merit.  
 Upon her altars burn the fires  
 That light the hideous funeral-pyres  
 Of ancient error, crime, and wrong,  
 By fashion, fame, and law made strong.  
 Was it not on her sea-lashed shores  
 The Pilgrims left their weary oars,  
 Casting their chains of soul behind,  
 On this forbidding soil to find,  
 Where barbarous men before had trod,  
 Freedom to serve and worship God?  
 Has history's voice not reached our ear,  
 Or, reaching, have we scorned to hear  
 What fearful dangers they did dare,  
 The rights of conscience here to share?  
 'Twas Duty's voice their souls had heard,  
 Demanding that God's living Word

Be honored, revered, and obeyed,  
 Before all laws that man had made.  
 And to earth's tyrants of every name,  
 Civic or clerical, 'twas all the same,  
 King, Emperor, Prince, Bishop, or Priest,  
 Whatever wore the mark of the Beast,—  
 To *all* they hurled a bold defiance,  
 God and the Right their sole reliance.  
 For Conscience' sake, at Duty's call,  
 They dared, endured, and suffered all ;  
 And daring, suffering, self-denying,  
 They triumphed gloriously, though dying.  
 We claim not for them full perfection,  
 Their faults do not escape detection ;—  
 They lighted persecution's fire  
 Against the Quaker, Mary Dyer,  
 And Williams, not of their persuasion,  
 They sent to Providence plantation.  
 But, notwithstanding all their wrongs,  
 Much honor to their name belongs  
 For their fidelity ; their sense  
 Of Right was their Omnipotence ;  
 And their strong blood has given birth  
 To sons and daughters of great worth,—  
 To men of spirit, men of soul,  
 Men who the fates themselves control,  
 To men of courage, men of toil,  
 Men who at truth never recoil,  
 To men who heed the living Word,  
 Disciples of a living Lord,  
 To men of principle and will,  
 Men, though opposed, who are faithful still,  
 To men that dare be out of Fashion  
 Though all the Grundys are in passion,  
 To men prepared to do and die  
 For justice, truth, and liberty.  
 In this renowned old Pilgrim State,  
 Fresh thought, ideas circulate ;  
 Inventions new spring into life,  
 And all the useful arts are rife.  
 Here Science finds rapt devotees  
 Who would all lore of nature seize,

And raise a temple to the skies,  
 Which should attract the joyful eyes  
 Of wondering nations, while from far  
 People should hail the beaming star.  
 Here learning sends her blessings down  
 To the humblest child of every town ;  
 None so insane and none so blind,  
 Who cannot an asylum find ;  
 While every moral, social good  
 Is sought and somewhat understood.  
 Humanity, with all her woes,  
 Torn by a thousand, thousand foes,  
 Turns hither in her half despair  
 And breathes her sad but earnest prayer.  
 Nor hither turns and prays in vain ;  
 At what she sees, takes heart again.  
 Philanthropy, with ready hands,  
 Would lavish blessings on all lands,  
 React the Good Samaritan  
 To every suffering, needy man,  
 And bring the reign of peace and love  
 Down from the realms of bliss above.  
 And in the ever waging fight  
 For Truth and Justice and the Right,  
 Among the heroes strong and bold,  
 Who, though now scorned, shall be enrolled  
 On the Future's scroll of merited fame,  
 There's many a Massachusetts name.  
 For every such, wherever he be,  
 Of known or unknown pedigree,  
 A monument more lustrous than gilt,  
 More lasting than marble, shall yet be built  
 In the hearts of grateful generations,  
 In the lives of coming states and nations,—  
 A monument that shall endure  
 When Bunker Hill's is known no more.  
 Old Massachusetts,—her renown  
 To years unnumbered shall go down ;  
 Her light, her love, her liberty,  
 Shall bless the ages yet to be.  
 But thoughts merely local should never engage  
 Our whole mind and heart in this stirring age ;

So pass we on hence to more general things,  
To topics my muse the more cheerfully sings.

There are questions pressing on us,  
Questions deep and questions high,  
Questions on whose faithful answer  
Rests our future destiny.  
Shall we give them our attention,  
Heeding well their inward sense ?  
Or, ignoring, blind and stolid,  
Boldly scorn Omnipotence ?  
'Tis God's angel to us puts them,  
'Tis his voice the silence breaks,  
Hark ! I hear the meaning accents  
Of the Providence that speaks.  
" What is man, and what existence ?  
What the end of labor here ?  
What is meant by human duty ? "  
Rings the voice out soft yet clear.  
" Answer, child of thought and feeling,  
Answer with thy lip and life,  
Answer with thy heart-aspirings,  
Answer with thy soul's stern strife."  
In the spirit of devotion,  
In the mind of trust and love,  
We take up the urgent queries  
Our fidelity to prove.

What is man,—his real nature ?  
What are his inherent powers ?  
What the being God hath made him,—  
Dweller on this globe of ours ?  
Is he but a mushroom creature,  
Springing upward for a day ?  
Some strange fungus of existence,  
Meteor-like mystery ?  
Is he like the beasts that perish,  
Traveling downward to the dust ?  
Or, like some old feudal castle,  
Subject to time's corroding rust ?

Being of but trifling value,  
 Like the things of earth and sense ?  
 Being to be held and trafficked  
 In the scale of pounds and pence ?  
 Being to be ground to powder  
 'Neath oppression's mighty weight ?  
 Being to be foully slaughtered  
 By harsh violence and hate ?  
 Victim of a proud ambition ?  
 Sport of tyrants or of fiends ?  
 Used, like dead, unconscious matter,  
 To promote base, selfish ends ?  
 Is this man, as God hath made him,  
 Man in his inherent soul,  
 Man that was, is, shall be ever,  
 While the ages onward roll ?  
 List, my Muse, the deep responses  
 Fall upon the inward ear,  
 Haste to catch them, and interpret  
 What the meaning that they bear.

The Infinite Creator, in his wonder-working plan,  
 Hath crowned with noble nature the being we call man ;  
 Though seeming frail and feeble, often lost in sin's dark night,  
 He yet may upward, onward move in everlasting flight.  
 What gifts are his, within the realm of intellect and soul !  
 What agencies are in his hand, that Destiny control !  
 Though struggling on the shores of time, before him is the portal  
 Of an unending life beyond—the life that is immortal.  
 He on his destined way may go, in never-tiring marches,  
 Swelling the songs that echo through the everlasting arches.  
 Behold, in outward, earthly form, what excellencies shine !  
 For poets truly speak and sing of “ human form divine.”  
 The hero of all history, of all below the head,  
 The centre round which things of earth their full-orbed circuits speed.  
 Strike man from out the rolling years, and what a blank were there !  
 What other loss can be conceived that with it could compare !  
 The ages in majestic pomp would come, and, passing, go.  
 But wherefore ? O, what tongue can tell, what mortal mind can know !  
 When God gave man existence, calling him from chaos' night,  
 He granted him a portion of His own all-powerful might,

That he, the creature and the child, all noble toil might share  
 With Him, Creator, Lord of all, who worketh everywhere.  
 Behold the deeds man's hand hath wrought in the outward creation,  
 Thus introducing to the earth a better dispensation ;—  
 The barren fields he cultivates, and fairer landscapes rise,  
 The rugged wilds to gardens turn, that bless beholding eyes ;  
 Where thorns and brambles grow and thrive, springs yellow, waving grain,  
 And so broad wastes and deserts change to Eden come again ;  
 Wild beasts forsake their native dens, their roars forever cease,  
 And human habitations stand in beauty and in peace.  
 God gives a river, island, bay ; man sets himself to work,  
 And lo ! as by some magic power, appears the great New York ;  
 A small peninsula he gives to man's industrious hands,  
 And Boston rises on the sight, the light of many lands ;  
 The forces of the outer world his servants he enrolls,  
 Unlocks the mysteries of time for the welfare of all souls ;  
 The hidden power of fire and water at his word comes forth,  
 An agency more potent than the Mastodons of earth,  
 Which carries him o'er land or sea, or here or there at will,  
 And multiplies in countless ways his own effective skill ;  
 Lightning he makes his errand-boy, the winds his harnessed steeds,  
 With sunbeams he his portraits paints,—such are his marvelous deeds.  
 But not alone to matter is his capacity confined ;  
 The greater his achievements in the spacious realm of mind ;—  
 He gathers up from all the past, its wisdom, light, and lore,  
 And brings out from the present what was never known before.  
 Old Egypt with her idol hands, her early treasures yields ;  
 And Greece, the many precious gems of her rich, classic fields ;  
 And Rome, whose eloquence and power shook Capitoline hill ;—  
 All these, each with peculiar gifts, his mental storehouse fill ;  
 While other nations, tribes, and tongues, their ready tribute bring,  
 And humbly lay it at his feet, a free-will offering.  
 Nor delves he always in the old, but finds new trophies still  
 Rewarding him, as on he toils up Science' rugged hill.  
 He reads in Geologic facts, in sand-stone, coal and granite,  
 The mighty works of nature's God, on this our native planet,  
 The wondrous changes that occurred in ante-human ages,  
 Ere history, with careless pen, had blotted yet her pages.  
 Or, leaving earthly things behind, the realms of space explores,  
 And visits regions far away, creation's other shores,  
 Discovers worlds and peoples them, and numbers all their years,  
 And marks the power, wisdom, love, that guides the circling spheres,



Nor pause we here ; for better ends and higher conquests lie  
 Within the reach of him that's made for Immortality.  
 Greater than intellect alone, than genius, reason, skill ;  
 Man has another nature, he has power of choice and will,  
 Of love and aspiration, of virtue, goodness, right,—  
 The loftier expressions of the everlasting might.  
 He is a moral being—he a spirit in his birth ;  
 His needs and sphere of action outreach the bounds of earth ;  
 He plays the harp of thousand strings, with discords harsh and bestial,  
 Or else, attuned by skillful hands, to symphonies celestial.  
 He judgment has of right and wrong, of what is good and evil,  
 And chooses he whom he will serve, or God, or self, or devil.  
 His power of ill, of deadly hate, of cruelty and crime,  
 Exhibited in all his course adown the stream of time,  
 Is counterparted by his power of holiness and love,  
 Which, in the wise designs of Heaven, his real worth must prove.  
 No Nero, full of lies and sin, debauchery and shame,  
 Who might not for himself have won the meed of heavenly fame ;  
 No Cæsar, full of war, driven by ambition's mad behest,  
 But might have won, in holier strife, the victories of the blest.  
 A Saul of Tarsus, breathing out fierce threatenings and rage  
 Against the new religion of more than prophet, priest or sage,  
 In Paul, the brave Apostle to the scattered Gentile race,  
 Appears with lovely radiance illumining his face.  
 And all the holy men and saints, God's sacramental host,  
 But indicate capacities that man, as man, may boast.  
 To conquer self, to bring to order, passion, appetite,  
 To train the soul to Christian truth, to principle and right,  
 To rise above temptation's power, to stem the tide of ill,  
 To humble at the throne of God the strong and stubborn will,—  
 This, man may do—all this, and more ; he holds the potent charm  
 By which the mighty wrongs of earth shall stay their blighting arm ;  
 He has the word which, if he speak, shall be at once obeyed,  
 'Tis "Thus far, Evil, shalt thou come—here be thy proud waves stayed ;"  
 And War, and Tyranny, and Lust, would then forever cease,  
 And all the realms of earth be filled with purity and peace.  
 He holds the futures in his grasp, the coming states and nations,  
 And moulds at will, for weal or woe, advancing generations.  
 Aye, such is man, the child of God, as runs the Christian story,  
 Created for exalted ends, for honor and for glory.  
 With eye of faith, he views the scenes on the eternal shore,  
 With heart of hope and love, aspires to life forevermore ;

To those companionships and joys that once below were riven,  
 To be revived and shared again within the gates of Heaven ;  
 To beings, sanctified and pure, where mortal bath not trod ;  
 To realms of light and joy and peace, the bosom of his God.  
 Though born on earth, he yet may rise in spirit, pure and free,  
 And claim his mansion in the skies for all eternity.  
 The earth, with all its mighty works, may run into decay ;  
 The heavens like a scroll be rolled, and, fearful, pass away ;  
 The rock-ribbed mountains bow their heads, the hills may take their flight,  
 And sun and moon and stars, grown dim, be lost in blackest night :  
 All nature and all systems into one vast ruin hurled,  
 And not a single pile be left, of universe or world ;  
 Yet man shall live, surpassing all, in God's far-stretching spheres,  
 Nor reach the limit of his powers through rolling, endless years.

“ Such is man,” the voices echo,  
 Clearly 'mid the din and strife ;  
 Yet once more I hear the query.  
 “ What, oh, answer, what is life ! ”

Aye, what is life—man's truest life—life worthy of the name,  
 That shall secure the human soul from dire remorse and shame ;  
 That aids it in its lawful course, its ever-rising way,  
 And realizes to it God's appointed Destiny ?  
 He only lives, who liveth well ; who gives supreme control,  
 To Him, by whose eternal law the universes roll ;  
 Who is forever cognizant of what he is within,—  
 His own inherent nature, though debased by self and sin ;  
 Employs his energy and skill to lofty ends and aims,  
 And, in his every word and deed, his noble worth proclaims.  
 The vital forces of his soul, with operative might,  
 Subdue all passion, lust, and pride, all carnal appetite ;  
 With pure affection, high resolve, with purpose firm and strong,  
 He stands, in his integrity, against all forms of wrong ;  
 Of Christ-like spirit, meek and mild, he holds to right and good,  
 And looks on all the human race as on a brotherhood.  
 Life is not *sham*, to spend one's years in artificial seeming ;  
 It is to *be*, in heart and life, frank, honest, self-redeeming.  
 Such, such is life, is glorious life ; all else is but appearing  
 To live, it is to vegetate, all godlike senses searing ;  
 'Tis famishing for wholesome bread ; to live to self and ease,  
 To eat, to drink, to sleep, this is on emptiness to seize,  
 To lie in idle sluggishness, as swiney beasts do lie ;

It is to feed on husks and chaff, to pine away and die.  
 To live to show, to vain display, to gain a place or station ;  
 To seek, in all one's walks and ways, to save a reputation ;  
 To live to Mammon, or to greed of any kind or name,  
 Is perishing to noble things, in ignorance and shame.  
 And when God strips such of their shams, their simple incidents,  
 Their silk and satin, broadcloth, starch, their shillings, pounds, and pence,  
 Their rank, their fame, their self-conceit, the power that they wield,  
 Of all but just their naked selves, when character 's revealed,  
 Oh, what a spectacle there'll be, to angels and to men !  
 What self-reproaches and disgrace, what dark forebodings, then !  
 And they who give themselves and all to baser, viler ends,  
 With envy, pride, and vengeful hate, make willing, steadfast friends ;  
 Who plunge deep into open vice, debauchery and crime—  
 Foul moths upon the silken flag, the floating folds of time ;  
 Who thrive on others' miseries, who pour a constant flood  
 Of woe and wretchedness around, their garments stained with blood ;  
 Tyrants and steel-clad conquerors, who trample to the dust,  
 Or slaughter still their fellow-men, obedient to their lust,—  
 Live such as they ? Worse than in vain, they live to wicked uses,  
 And all their strength perpetuates man's vices and abuses.  
 Perverted all their wondrous powers of body, mind, and soul,  
 Oh, who shall envy them their lot, when Justice shall unroll  
 Her lengthy catalogue of sins, of outrages and wrongs,  
 And ply her retributions with their seven-scorpioned thongs ?  
 Who can put off the law of God ? What soul with madness driven,  
 Self-deified, shall set at nought the statutes of high Heaven ?  
 Who does it, Man, or Church, or State, a fearful hazard runs,  
 As if yon planetary orbs were hurled from central suns.  
 Who lives to else than virtue's ends, scorning wisdom's pearls,  
 And giving passion mastery, himself to ruin hurls.  
 Wreck of a man ! Oh, what a wreck ! Behold it, as it lies,  
 Where should, in stately majesty, a glorious manhood rise !  
 There are in other lands than ours, as many tourists say,  
 Temples and cities, here and there, fast crumbling to decay,  
 Once rising beautiful and fair, designed with wondrous art.  
 With architectural taste and skill displayed in every part,  
 Their shining turrets towering high, their galleries and halls,  
 And ornaments, both rich and rare, upon their ample walls.—  
 How splendid in their proper day, wrought with such perfect skill !  
 Though they in desolation lie, how splendid are they still !  
 Column and capital and tower, dome, architrave, pilaster,  
 And arches, statues, paintings, busts, the works of some old master.—

A broken, crumbling mass they lie, a ruin vast and great,  
 The mind is struck with awe and dread, the wreck to contemplate.  
 But ah, a human wreck ! a wreck of God's immortal child !  
 A blasted soul, a heart given up to devastations wild !—  
 What wreck of temples, cities, states, with that can well compare !  
 Wreck over which demons may send a howl of mad despair,  
 While angels, from their lofty heights, behold with tear-dimmed eye,  
 And heave from bosoms pitiful, a deep, unuttered sigh,  
 And only find repose, at last, as hallelujahs swell,  
 The God of Wisdom, God of Love, "He doeth all things well."  
 But what of life ? It is not tame, not spiritless, and dull,  
 'Tis vigorous and heroic, of active labor *full*.  
 It gathers up the goods of earth, not selfishly and vain,  
 But renders them all *doubly* good, by scattering them again  
 Where they shall carry comfort, peace, and blessing in their train,  
 Supplying many a rising need, and soothing many a pain.  
 It shares the real joys of time, the beauties spread around,  
 The Wisdom and the Love of God, wherever they are found.  
 The grassy mead, the rising hill, the wide, outstretching plain,  
 The pastures green, the fields of corn, of waving, yellow grain,  
 The snow-capped mountain, awful, grand, with ravine dark and fell,  
 The forest deep, the glassy lake, the quiet, smiling dell,  
 The murmuring brook, the cataract, the rushing, foaming river,—  
 In all, it sees the steadfast love and bounty of the Giver.  
 And sun and moon and planetary systems, as they roll  
 In might and majesty above, awaken in the soul  
 The loftier sentiment of praise, of grateful adoration  
 To Him who, though invisible, yet reigns throughout creation ;  
 Who, in his tender mercy, gives his human children free  
 Entrance to the unmeasured realms of his immensity.  
 Life uses well the gifts of mind, scorns not the power of thought,  
 Ignores no worthy victory that genius' hand hath wrought,  
 Pays tribute at the court of Art, and Reason's counsels heeds,  
 And summons all the intellect to wise and useful deeds ;  
 Yet makes all else subservient to Virtue and to Right,  
 Thus clothes itself forevermore with God's own moral might.  
 The living soul breathes Heaven's air, and drinks from founts supernal ;  
 It feeds on holy angels' food—the bread that is eternal ;  
 From trials sad and burdensome, from sorrows lone and drear,  
 Extracts some precious nectar the Father mingled there.  
 Yes, life is active, everywhere, it breaks the galling chains  
 Of Bigotry, and overturns blind Superstition's fanes ;  
 Is ever ringing out the old, and ringing in the new,

And seeks to installate the Good, the Beautiful, and True.  
 Bids Sin depart, and Righteousness, whose right it is to reign,  
 To come and bless the fallen world with Brotherhood again.  
 Such life is blessed ; it is full of hope and trust and joy ;  
 Purer than earthly pleasure, it exists without alloy ;  
 And he alone can share it, who, in singleness of heart,  
 Makes Justice, Purity, and Love, his wiser, better part.  
 Whoe'er hath tasted of its sweets, by humble aspiration,  
 Whoe'er hath felt its potent strength, by earnest consecration,  
 Hath found a peace that passeth far all mortal understanding,  
 Hath gained a power more noble than all temporal commanding.  
 Life is aggressive ; it goes forth a moral war to wage,  
 And, in the strife for God and man, is ready to engage ;  
 Fears not on every kind of wrong to make a bold attack,  
 And drives all shameful practices from its own chosen track ;  
 Beats back the flaming flood of ill that threatens human weal,  
 And treads the serpent Selfishness beneath its conquering heel ;  
 Brings down to earth, for all mankind, the grace that is perennial,  
 And heralds in the coming day, the glorious day millennial.  
 Life that is normal, lofty, pure, inspired by heavenly breath,  
 Strengthened by faith, and cheered by hope, sees no such thing as death ;  
 For death, to it, is only change from lower sphere to higher,  
 Where Heaven strikes up forevermore its own harmonious lyre,  
 And one majestic chorus swells, through every shining mansion,  
 And souls grow more and more like God, in glorious expansion.

"This is life," repeat the whispers,  
 Speaking with their silent power,  
 And they tell us, "Learn of Duty  
 In the Lesson of the hour."

What Lesson, then, does Providence  
 Give to our inner, better sense ?  
 'Tis this,—Be manly, noble, true,  
 Keep Justice, Righteousness in view.  
 Humble in heart, single in mind,  
 To selfish ends be not inclined,  
 But let thy soul with love embrace  
 In its desires the human race.  
 In every deed, in every word,  
 Let God's own voice by thee be heard.  
 Keep a pure conscience ; never dare  
 Allow a stain of treachery there ;

Spurn from thy presence shame and lies,  
 All Heaven-cursed hypocrisies.  
 By the strong power of self-control,  
 Rule each department of thy soul.  
 And, as, on our New England strand,  
 The Eternal, with his mighty hand,  
 Hath over-arched those central fires  
 Whose pent-up fury never tires  
 With granite masonry, firm and sure,  
 Which through time's changes shall endure,—  
 So, over passion, lust, and pride,  
 That threaten ill on every side,  
 Those hidden flames that, fell and dire,  
 Rage with more than volcanic ire,  
 Build, as with arm of vigorous youth,  
 The solid masonry of Truth—  
 Of moral principle, the Rock  
 That shall resist the sternest shock.  
 So, strengthened with that conquering Might  
 That's coupled with eternal Right,  
 Go forth, in love and hope and trust,  
 To wage the warfare of the just ;  
 To spread around, broad-cast and free,  
 The seed of bright Futurity.  
 Is there a wrong to be resisted ?  
 A worthy cause to be assisted ?  
 With ready heart, oh, be thou nigh,  
 Prepared to labor, suffer, die.  
 Is there a trembling, bleeding slave ?  
 Thy hand, be it stretched out to save.  
 A fugitive, hunted and lone ?  
 Spurn law and court, be mercy done.  
 Is there a bloated, staggering sot ?  
 Let not his case pass by, forgot.  
 Is there a fallen wife or sister ?  
 Do what thy soul may find to assist her.  
 Does fearful want oppress the poor ?  
 Be there a helper at thy door.  
 Do wars prevail, rapine increase ?  
 Be Christ's disciple, speak for Peace.  
 Whatever is corrupt or vile,  
 That soul or body may defile ;  
 Whatever selfish, base, unjust,

Trampling God's image in the dust ;  
 Whatever habit, custom, fashion,  
 Is built on pride, caprice, or passion ;  
 Whatever popular institution,  
 In Church or State, needs revolution ;  
 Whatever hoary-headed crime  
 There be, bearing the marks of Time ;  
 Whatever ignorance, vice, or sin,  
 Human affairs still lurks within ;—  
 Abhorred of God, hostile to man,  
 In battle with it, *be thou in the van.*  
 Nor in thy labor e'er despair,  
 For God will heed thy earnest prayer,  
 Nor shalt thou justly once complain  
 That thou hast done thy work in vain.  
 Thou may'st not find a bed of down ;  
 Men may not weave thy brow a crown ;  
 Nor glad hosannas meet thine ear,  
 As onward move thy high career ;  
 Thou may'st be made to feel the fire  
 That persecution lights to flame the pyre  
 Of martyred prophets, saints, and sages,  
 Whose ashes fertilize the ages ;  
 Thou may'st even die, what's that to thee,  
 O child of Immortality !  
 Thou hast but to be faithful, still  
 Concerned to do thy Father's will ;  
 For Duty done, be it confessed,  
 With God you can leave all the rest.  
 Nor seek for famous works, or great,  
 As men count such, but consecrate  
 Thyself to goodness, be thy lot  
 Lofty or lowly, it matters not.  
 The tiniest flower beneath our feet  
 May for God's Paradise be meet ;  
 From humblest cottages may rise  
 Dwellers of mansions in the skies ;  
 The meekest soul may strike the strings  
 That vibrate to the King of kings ;  
 And some low, plaintive cadence here,  
 May swell in accents grown more clear,  
 Till, caught by flaming tongues above  
 That chant forevermore in love,

It echoes through the realms that lie  
 Beneath the everlasting sky.  
 All things are in the hands of Him  
 Who, throned amid the seraphim,  
 Yet lives in all unfolding life,  
 And who, in every manly strife,  
 Whatever be the earthly degree,  
 Awards the meed of victory.  
 To the true soul, there is no defeat,  
 There is no dismay, there is no retreat,  
 Success is sure, forever appears  
 The triumph of the coming years;  
 A triumph glorious, pure, divine,  
 Whose trophies through all ages shine.

But the hours of our Jubilee hasten away,  
 And my Muse must resign her tremulous lay.  
 No more may we dwell on these loftier themes,  
 Whence mortals may catch some radiant gleams  
 From the sunlight of Wisdom, of Power, and of Love,  
 Which shines so resplendently ever above.  
 That sunlight which shall all darkness dispel,  
 Send ignorance down to its own native hell,  
 Banish all falsehood, lies, and crime,  
 From this beautiful earth to the Gehenna of time,  
 That the kingdoms of earth, with a hearty accord,  
 May become the dominions of Jesus our Lord,  
 While angels descending, with rapture again  
 Sing, "Glory to God, peace, good will among men."  
 It is well that we bathe in those glorious beams,  
 They quicken the soul with the grace that redeems;  
 They cleanse from the dross and corruptions of earth,  
 And fill with a spirit divine in its birth,  
 Transforming frail man, child of sense and of sin,  
 To an angel of God, prepared to go in  
 And out before Him with service and praise,  
 Here on earth, or beyond, unto endless days.  
 Drinking deeper and deeper at the infinite fountain,  
 Climbing higher and higher the glory-capped mountain,  
 Finding always and aye, abundantly more  
 Of joy and delight than conceived of before,  
 And swelling the anthems, full-toned and free,  
 Of the grand orchestra of eternity.



# PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

## WESTMINSTER CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

---

A NUMBER of the citizens of Westminster, desirous of celebrating the ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY of the Incorporation of the Town, held several informal meetings, to consider the subject; and adopted measures to ascertain the wishes and views of the inhabitants in relation to such a Celebration. Finding the people favorable to this measure, it was though desirable that the Town should take corporate action upon the subject. Consequently, a legal meeting of the inhabitants was called, when the Town expressed their approval of the contemplated Celebration, and chose a Committee of Fifteen, with full power to make the necessary arrangements to carry their resolution into effect.

They also generously voted, that the Committee be authorized to cause the Address and Proceedings to be published, at the expense of the Town, and circulated among the inhabitants, if they should deem it expedient.

The following gentlemen were chosen as a

### COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| JOEL MERRIAM, Jr.   | DANIEL C. MILES,     |
| CHARLES A. FORBUSH, | BENJAMIN F. WOOD,    |
| THEODORE WHITNEY,   | BENJAMIN WYMAN,      |
| JOSIAH PAGE,        | FRANKLIN HOWE,       |
| CALEB S. MERRIAM,   | WILLIAM S. BRADBURY, |
| CALVIN WHITNEY,     | JAMES C. CLARKE,     |
| A. MILLER,          | A. MERRIAM,          |

JOHN MINOTT.

The Committee of Arrangements having taken measures to secure an Address and Poem—and having engaged a Caterer, and made such other arrangements as were deemed necessary—selected the following gentlemen as Officers of the Day.

President.

BENJAMIN WYMAN.

Vice Presidents.

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| WILLIAM S. BRADBURY, | JONAS MILLER,    |
| GEORGE MILES,        | EDWARD BACON,    |
| SAMUEL G. KENDALL,   | B. F. WOOD,      |
| JOEL MERRIAM,        | AARON WOOD,      |
| MANASSEH S. FORBUSH, | STILLMAN BROOKS, |
| ANSON SPAULDING,     | FRANKLIN WYMAN,  |
| D. WHITNEY.          |                  |

Toast-Masters.

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| DANIEL C. MILES, | FREDERICK ALLEN. |
|------------------|------------------|

Chief Marshal.

JOHN MINOTT.

Assistant Marshals.

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| JOSEPH W. FORBUSH, | A. B. HOLDEN,   |
| DANIEL C. MILES,   | JAMES R. BRUCE, |
| ARTEMAS MERRIAM,   | FRANKLIN HOWE,  |
| P. C. BROWN,       | C. S. MERRIAM,  |
| JOSEPH M. WHITMAN, | MAJOR PAGE,     |
| A. WHITNEY.        |                 |

Clerks.

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| DR. CLINTON WARREN, | CHARLES H. STEARNS. |
|---------------------|---------------------|

Though Westminster was Incorporated on the 20th of October, 1759, the Committee deemed it advisable to select an earlier day, for their Celebration, for various reasons ; but principally to avoid

any interference with the inhabitants of the adjoining town of Princeton, who, it was understood, would celebrate their Anniversary on the 20th. To avoid all inconvenience arising from this source, and to enable those who were desirous of attending both Celebrations, to do so, the Committee selected the 6th of October for their gathering.

Westminster having no Military Company, the Firemen of the town kindly volunteered to perform the escort duty ; and interchanging a civility with the Gardner Firemen, invited their two Companies to join them on the occasion, and lead the Procession.

The day preceding the Celebration was remarkably fine, and every thing looked propitious. A large Tent had been pitched on the Common, and extensive tables were laid for the repast. A stage had been erected on the Hill for the Speakers, under the depending, but leafless branches of the large elms which grace the Common, and which had withstood the storms and the tempests for nearly, if not quite a century. The Firemen had also made preparation for a trial of their skill and the power of their machines, on the morning of the 6th, before the Procession had formed. They had erected their target-pole, which towered above the steeple of the Congregational Church in the village. Large flags were suspended across the street in various places, which, with the stars and stripes thrown to the breeze from the Tent on the Hill, gave to the whole village a gala-day appearance. Absent citizens were returning to the place of their nativity, joy lighted up every countenance, and all looked with pleasing anticipation to the pageantry, festivities, and cordial greetings of the coming day.

Morning came,—and the rising sun, as it shed its early rays on the pleasant village, beheld its fine natural scenery tastefully set off by artificial decorations, and its usually quiet streets filled by the citizens of the town, and the absent sons and daughters of Westminster, who had returned once more to their native place, to lay their offerings on the altar of their ancestors. Invited guests and citizens from the neighboring towns were flocking to the village, to participate in the joys and festivities of the day. The citizens of Gardner, a portion of whose territory was formerly included in Westminster, participated largely in the pleasures of the occasion. With a filial regard for the parent in whose lap they had been nurtured, they honored the day by their presence, and contributed much to the interest of the occasion.

At an early hour, the fine Engine Companies were on the ground. The Cataract, No. 1, of Gardner, numbering sixty-seven men, commanded by Mr. Bowman Clarke, and accompanied by the Gardner Cornet Band; the Torrent, No. 2, of South Gardner, numbering seventy men, under command of Mr. Samuel Bently, accompanied by Fisk's Cornet Band, from Worcester, in connection with Westminster Company, No. 1, commanded by Mr. James R. Clarke, numbering ninety men, and accompanied by the Fitchburg Cornet Band, assembling with their Engines tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens, made an imposing appearance, and gave a lively interest to the occasion. They were all dressed in their respective uniforms, and were fondly anticipating that trial of firemen prowess, so animating to themselves, and so pleasing to the beholders.

But the fresh breeze from the North-west, which was invigorating in the early morning, soon stiffened into a gale, and blew with such a constant and uninterrupted current through the day, as to destroy the sport of the firemen, and greatly impair all the anticipated pleasures of the occasion. So powerful was the gale as to endanger the Tent upon the Common; and "mine host" felt the necessity of adopting the requirement of the Prophet: "Spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes,"—and even then, though he kept his tent standing, it did not escape all injury. The flags, which at an early hour were playing so gracefully in the breeze, were soon increasing in number by diminishing in size, and were hauled down to save them from utter destruction. And while, with full hearts and eager interest, thousands of persons were exchanging their cordial greetings and friendly salutations, clouds of dust were blinding their eyes, and teaching them the all-important truth, that we are subject to Him "who maketh the clouds his chariot, and who walketh upon the wings of the wind."

But notwithstanding the unpropitious character of the day, the programme was carried out as far as practicable. The booming of a hundred guns in the morning, had announced a festive day, and the gladsome peals, reverberating from hill to hill, had sent forth a cordial welcome to numerous natives of the place, returned to visit the home of their childhood, and the Hill where their parents worshiped,—and they must not be disappointed.

At ten o'clock the Procession was formed, at the Town Hall, under the direction of the Chief Marshal, John Minott, assisted

by his Deputies, and by Levi Heywood, Esq., of Gardner, who marshaled the Delegation from his town. The Procession moved in the following Order :

1

The Engine Companies, accompanied by their Bands,  
as an Escort.

2

The Committee of Arrangements.

3

The President of the Day, Orator, and Chaplain.

4

The Vice Presidents.

5

The Rev. Clergy, Invited Guests, and Representatives  
of the Press.

6

The Westminster Choir.

7

Citizens of Gardner.

8

Citizens at Large.

Forming one peculiar feature of the Procession, were the Representatives of a former generation, among whom was the venerable Deacon DAVID WHITNEY, in the NINETY-THIRD year of his age. The Procession moved to the Common, where a Speakers' Stand had been erected, and seats furnished for the accommodation of the company, who had assembled to the number of about twenty-five hundred. Here, among the relics of antiquity exhibited by Deacon Whitney, was an *Arm Chair*, the property of his mother, manufactured in England, two hundred years ago, and brought by her to Westminster, one hundred and six years ago.\*

The exercises at the Stand, commenced with Music from the Band, followed by a Voluntary by the Choir ; Reading of the

\* His mother was Tabitha Merriam, from Lexington, daughter of Thomas and Tabitha (Stone) Merriam. As the original ancestors of the Merriams and the Stones, came to this country between 1630 and 1640, it is probable that this venerable relic was a portion of the furniture brought by the first emigrant in one of those families.

Scriptures by Rev. Brown Emerson, of Westminster ; and Prayer by Rev. Marcus Ames, of Chelsea, Mass., who formerly officiated in Westminster.

The following original Hymn, composed by Miss Lucy B. Whitney, of Westminster, was then sung.

All hail the day we celebrate !

Let all the people throng,  
And every voice with one accord,  
Pour forth a grateful song.

And while in the loud swelling strain,  
Are joining old and young,  
Let every note our lips shall breathe,  
To thee, O God, be sung.

Here are the people thy right hand  
Hath scattered o'er our hills ;  
Pour out, O Lord, on all our hearts,  
The grace thy love instills.

So shall the gala-day we spend,  
Find favor in thy sight,  
And crown a century's hoary head—  
A coronet of light.

We trace, to-day, the hundred years  
Our native town hath seen ;  
A hundred times thy power, O God,  
Hath robed her hills in green.

And all the blessings that have dropped  
Upon her sons like dew,  
Have shown, through all the circling years,  
Thy boundless love anew.

And now unto our native soil  
Her scattered sons repair ;  
Make all their hearts, O Lord of hosts,  
*Free* as her mountain air.

For a hundred years thy mighty arm  
Hath made our town increase ;  
Upon the century yet to come,  
Send forth, O Lord, *thy peace*.

After these preliminary exercises, which were inaudible to nineteen-twentieths of the Assembly, in consequence of the violence of the wind, Hon. Charles Hudson, of Lexington, was introduced as the Orator of the Day. Mr. Hudson attempted to deliver his Address, under circumstances peculiarly adverse. The rude blasts of old Borcas, whistling through the pendent branches of the aged elms over his head, rendered it impossible for any man to be heard by any considerable number of the people present. A contest with such a rival proving unavailing, a compromise was finally effected, by an adjournment to the Orthodox Church. The house was immediately filled to overflowing, and only a small portion of the people could gain admission. The Universalists' Church, on the opposite side of the Street, was immediately thrown open; and the Address of Mr. Hudson was resumed in the former, while the Poem of Mr. Haywood was commenced in the latter. But even then, a considerable portion of the people could not be accommodated with seats, or even get within the sound of the speakers' voices.

The time which had been consumed in marching to and from the Hill to the churches, left in fact but little time for speaking; so that only a small portion of what had been prepared, could be delivered. Rather than be late at the table, the exercises at the church were cut short, and the following Original Hymn, by Hon. George Lunt, of Boston, was sung :

Let grateful songs ascend on high,  
 For now the day of days has come,  
 When swelling heart and moistened eye  
 Bid every wanderer welcome home.

Each field and hill and grassy slope  
 Recalls—what buried joys and tears!  
 While Memory crowns, in hand with Hope,  
 This harvest of a hundred years.

These are the paths our Fathers trod,  
 Our Sons the faithful thought shall keep,  
 And bless, like us, the sacred sod,  
 Where fathers and where mothers sleep.

Thus on this spot till ages end,  
 While souls their pious thoughts renew,  
 The past shall with the present blend,  
 To make the future bright and true.

After the Benediction was pronounced, the procession was reformed and moved to the Common, where a Dinner had been provided by Captain Charles Fletcher, of Leominster. Ample justice having been done to this repast, by some twelve hundred persons, the President of the Day, Mr. Benjamin Wyman, rose and made the following Address :

*Ladies and Gentlemen :—*

I am called, this day, to preside and take the responsibilities of this position, by the Committee of Arrangements. I do not conceive that the honor was conferred upon me for any tact or ability which I possess above my associates ; but, for the single reason, that I am one of the few who were born in this town, and have always resided here, and have been an eye-witness of the events which have transpired for the last half century.

In behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, I welcome you, one and all, to the pleasures and festivities of this day. Particularly do I welcome those whose fortunes are cast elsewhere, who have returned to visit the place of their birth and the scenes of their childhood. I welcome you to our somewhat wild and romantic scenery, which may have, in some degree, given cast to your characters ; to our fresh and bracing atmosphere, which could hardly fail to impart strength and vigor to your frames. I welcome you to the scene of your fathers' toils—to the place where parental fondness reared you, and where many a prayer has been offered for your prosperity and happiness.

I also welcome those of our friends, who are here to-day as invited guests ; and though we have nothing peculiarly attractive or striking in our history, to engage your attention, and gain your admiration, we trust that we can point you to a stern and pious ancestry, who contributed their full share to build up the institutions, whose blessings are shared by the present generation.

In October, 1759, Westminster was incorporated into a District, that the people might better regulate their municipal affairs. She was then a constituent part of Massachusetts Colony, subject to the government of Great Britain. In less than twenty years, our Independence was declared, which eventually separated the Colony from the mother country. This is history.

The first settlers in this town were of the old English Puritan stock, bred to the rights of private judgment, and, inheriting the



great principles of English liberty and independence, were ready at all times to assert their rights, and maintain them too, whoever might be the aggressor. Being an intelligent and religious people, they were ever ready to perform their part in laying broad and deep the foundations of a free Commonwealth. Their love of liberty, and their readiness to peril all in its defence, grew out of their devotion to their God, and a firm trust in his providence. Believing in the "higher law," and the ability of the divine Law-giver to do his will among the nations of the earth, they performed what, after full and deliberate reflection, they conceived to be their duty, and left the result with him. Nor did they labor and suffer for themselves alone. Their love of liberty included the welfare of those who came after them. The sacrifices they made in our Revolution, were for the two-fold object of securing the blessings of liberty to themselves, and leaving the rich inheritance to their posterity. Such was the character, and such the motives of our Fathers; and we are here to-day to hallow their memories, and venerate their names. The fathers and mothers of the Revolution are gone from us; but their deeds and their characters "still live." And we can best express our gratitude by trusting in Him on whom they relied, by emulating their deeds, and handing down their names to succeeding generations.

What thoughts and recollections crowd upon us to-day! The past has gone, and the present will be history a hundred years hence. The place we shall occupy in its pages, depends upon ourselves. I well remember, in my boyhood, of listening to a citizen of this town, while he related an experience of his youth. He said, "at the breaking out of the Revolution, a messenger arrived in town before noon, on the 19th of April, to notify the people that the British troops were on their way to Concord. Runners were sent in every direction, to rally the citizens. My father and I were at work in the field, when the news reached us. We went to the house and took our dinner; he gave directions to my mother, and immediately started off with others for Concord." What was true of this man, was true of more than forty other citizens of Westminster, on that eventful day. Well may we exclaim, *Patriotic and noble ancestors!* We will strive to emulate your virtues.

*Citizens of Gardner*, who are here to celebrate this day with us, we bid you, welcome. Some of your territory was included in

ours at the time of our incorporation. You have gone out from us; you have outgrown us; but we envy not your prosperity. You are bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, and when one member rejoices, all shall rejoice with it. Go on and prosper, and our benediction shall attend you.

We have many, we rejoice to know, with us to-day, who will speak to us on this joyous occasion.

Mr. Wyman closed by announcing Messrs. Frederick Allen and Daniel C. Miles, as Toast-masters; and said that he trusted responses would be made by gentlemen, as they were called upon.

The gale which had been so annoying during the morning, continued with unabated violence through the whole afternoon, rendering the speech of the President, and the responses to the sentiments, inaudible, except to the few who were near the speakers. This fact will account for the meager report of the speeches.

The following regular sentiments were announced by the Toast-masters:

### 1. *The Day we celebrate.*

This sentiment was responded to, by Rev. S. S. Smith, of Warren, Mass., formerly a settled clergyman in Westminster. He said: "I know not why I should be called upon thus early, to open the intellectual treat on this occasion. For I find myself somewhat in the situation of a verdant young lad who, during my ministry in this place, attended yonder Academy. One evening, on going to the door to answer the bell, I found myself confronted by a brother Jonathan, who said, 'Mr. Smith, I attend the Academy, and the Preceptor says I must write a composition; and I called to see if you would not assist me.' 'I cannot write a composition for you,' was my reply. 'I did not expect that you would write it for me,' said he, 'but I kinder wanted you should give me some words, and I will kinder put them together, and so make some idees if I can.' I told him if that was all he wanted, I could help him; I could give him a dictionary, which was full of words.

"My situation is not exactly like his. I have generally words enough; but I shall find it 'kinder' hard to put them together, so as to make ideas. But I suppose I must say something, to open this entertainment. I rejoice in this day. I rejoice that I am per-

mitted to see so many familiar and pleasant faces before me, all apparently rejoicing in this occasion. I think this day will do us all good ; as it will join our souls together, and induce us to do more for the benefit of the community. There is not a man or woman here to-day, but that will go home with a fuller appreciation of the blessings we enjoy. All will be wiser and better for being here. Though I am not a native of the place, I feel connected with you by the ties of an intercourse extended through the several years of my residence in your midst. I have many attachments to the good old town, and rejoice that I am neither forgotten nor repudiated by you." He closed his remarks with expressing his good wishes for the peace, prosperity, and future enjoyment of the people of the place.

2. *The Town of Westminster*—as it was *one hundred years ago*, and as it *now is*.

As a response to this sentiment, the following letter from the honorable and venerable Abijah Bigelow, of Worcester, was read :

*Worcester, Sept. 27, 1859.*

WILLIAM S. BRADBURY, Esq. :

*Dear Sir,*—I received your polite invitation, in behalf of the Committee for the Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Westminster, of which I am a native, being born there on the fifth of December, 1775. It would give me great pleasure, and much satisfaction, to be present on so interesting an occasion, were I able ; but my age and infirmities will prevent my attendance. You ask me to give my recollections of its early history. Great changes have taken place since I was a boy. My father lived about a mile westerly of the Meeting-house Hill, where Rev. Asaph Rice resided. There was then no other road from Westminster to Gardner, but that which went by my father's house, which was situated where my kinsman, Benson Bigelow, now resides. He then kept a public house, for the accommodation of travelers who passed on the road, but not as a resort for towns-people to drink and carouse. From the time I was seven to ten years old, I shall never, while my recollections last, forget those winters. It was at a time when the principal citizens of the towns lying beyond Greenfield, went in sleighs to carry their produce to Boston ; and frequently we had, at night, to

put up from twenty to thirty horses, which was cold work, as I know by experience, for I had to assist. Since then, you have made a Turnpike, which goes back of my father's house. Then the Railroad to Vermont was made, which, although running through Westminster, is yet two or three miles from the centre of the town. The changes in respect to schools have been highly honorable to you as a town. You have an Academy on "Meeting-house Hill," so called, which has been well sustained, and is in a flourishing condition.

I have much to make me respect and love the town of Westminster; and I sincerely hope that by industry, frugality, and temperance, it may always continue one of the most respectable towns in the county.

Once more, regretting my inability to be with you on the 6th of October, and praying for God's blessing on my native town, I remain,

Yours truly,

ABIAH BIGELOW.

3. *The Sons of Westminster, native and adopted.*—While our forests have disappeared under the hand of cultivation, it has not reduced the value of our Wood.

It was expected that Hon. Nathaniel Wood, of Fitchburg, a former resident in the town, would have been present to respond to this sentiment; but being absent, the President said he was happy to say, that Rev. Dr. Allen, formerly a Missionary to Bombay, who was for a short time a resident in this place, and who had partaken largely of its blessings, was present with us on this occasion; and as his *better-half* was a Wood, of Westminster growth, he should call upon him.\*

Dr. Allen said, he came to this town about forty years ago, as a school-teacher. "I am happy now to recognize many of my former pupils, as the leading and distinguished citizens of the town. While teaching in Westminster, I made many valuable acquaintances and friends, and the recollections of those days are revived on this occasion. I was ordained as a Foreign Missionary in this

\* Dr. Allen married, 1827, Miss Myra Wood, daughter of Abel Wood, Esq. She accompanied him to Bombay, where she died, February 5, 1831.

town, and but a few rods from this place, in May, 1827, thirty-two years ago. I left the country soon after, and was absent twenty-six years. In leaving this country, I was conscious that I was attended by the prayers and benedictions of many of the good people of Westminster. It was from this town that I took with me what I valued above all earthly blessings; and I am happy to know that the *Wood*, of this kind, has not deteriorated."

He then related some family reminiscences, and closed with some brief and touching allusions to the companion of his choice, who was willing to give up all for Christ, and who cheerfully left friends and kindred dear, to accompany him on his mission to the heathen, in the hope that she might be instrumental in spreading the glorious Gospel among the benighted children of Asia; who coöperated with him in his labors in the Bombay Mission, and who found her last resting-place in that distant country, far from her native land.

Mr. Goodwin Wood, of Fitchburg, also responded to this sentiment. He related some incidents that occurred in his boyhood, and humorously gave an anecdote bearing upon the ludicrous, of a conversation which, to his boyish imagination, had all the vividness of truth, but which, to his riper years, hardly rose to the dignity of fiction. He concluded by giving as a sentiment:

*Westminster*—which has ever taken a high stand in the cause of *temperance, virtue and morality*—may she pursue the same course, "only more so," for the coming hundred years.

4. *Our Lands*—Although productive of many of the *good things of life*, yet not sufficiently so to save us, at this time, from dependence upon the Western MILLER.

Levi Miller, Esq., of Antwerp, N. Y., a native of Westminster, responded to the call thus made upon him. "We are assembled," said he, "for no common purpose, and on no common occasion. We are here to take a view of the past, and should time permit, to take a glance at the future. We are here, not to engage in the business of President-making, or Governor-making—not to discuss political questions—whether Congress has a right to make a certain law, or not; but we come to shake each other cordially by the

hand, and to unite our hearts in affectionate remembrance, and our voices in praise of whatever is wise and great. We have come from the shores of the sea, from the rivers of the West, from the sunny climes of the South, and from the granite hills of the North, to unite our voices with yours, in celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary of your Birth-day."

The speaker then compared Westminster of 1759, with Westminster of 1859, and said, that *then* the wandering Indian traversed this county, spreading terror and devastation, but now the steam-engine goes snorting his way through valleys and hills, and he was happy to learn that he was about to put his nose through the Hoosac. After running this parallel between the past and the present, and giving several instances of the great changes which a century had wrought, he continued by saying: "With this day we renew our affection for this town. We should bow before our Heavenly Father, and thank him that he has vouchsafed to us this opportunity; that he has blessed both you and us, and inspired our hearts with filial and fraternal feeling. I would say with the Royal Psalmist: 'Our heads are anointed with oil, and our cup runneth over.' In yonder cemetery rest the bones of my ancestors, who took part in the early settlement of this town; among whom is an honored mother, who taught me to love God, and to pray to him, and to keep the Sabbath-day holy. These lessons from her pious lips, seem to rise up fresh before me on this occasion, and admonish me not to disregard the instruction of her who, though dead, yet speaketh."

After relating some personal incidents, he closed by suggesting that if the increase of population, and the march of improvement, for the next century, should continue in equal ratio with the past, the people may be able to come from all parts of the country to attend our next Centennial, and return to their home the same evening.

5. *Our Fathers were a provident people*—but though they estimated their *money* by PENNIES, their *lands* were computed by MILES.

It was expected that Rev. Dr. Henry A. Miles, of Boston, whose grandfather resided in Westminster, and was their principal land surveyor, would respond to this sentiment; but not being present,

the President said he should do the best he could to procure a substitute, and therefore should call upon Clough R. Miles, Esq., of Millbury, who, though of another family, had the advantage of being a native of Westminster.

Mr. Miles, in answer to the call, gave an account of his lineage, and, recurring to the scenes of his boyhood, said he could almost hear the tread of his feet, as he came to the old school-house on the Meeting-house Hill, fifty years ago, where every rock and spear of grass seemed familiar to him. He could see the old Meeting-house with its elevated pulpit, and its high square pews, and the stone horse-block near the east door, where our fathers and mothers mounted their horses, the one upon the saddle, and the other upon the pillion; the venerable Tything-men, who acted as police officers, and the dreaded old Stocks, to be put in requisition in cases of necessity. All this, and more, was perfectly familiar to his recollection. He then asked the older portion of the assembly, who were inhabitants of the place, to take a ramble with him about the town; he described the location of many of the old inhabitants, facetiously pictured their dwellings, the well-sweep, and the old oaken bucket, and gave many amusing incidents, showing the spirit of the times, and the respective peculiarities of some of the families—carrying the scene back to days within the recollection of the older inhabitants only. Fearing that his ramble would occupy too much time, he would close; and if he had trespassed too long upon their patience, his apology was, that the township was large, and the picture was so vivid to his mind, that it seemed to be living his life over again, and he did not wish to shorten his existence.

6. *The Schools of Westminster, both public and private*—not behind the rest in the State, as the *men* and *women* they have sent out can practically testify.

Rev. Charles Kendall, of Petersham, was then introduced. He said that being a native of the town, and receiving the first rudiments of his education in the district school, and his early classical education in the Academy near by, he could testify to their character, and to the blessings they had conferred upon those who had enjoyed their privileges; and in common with others, his thoughts often recurred to the old school-house, where a thousand pleasing

recollections rushed upon his mind. His old playmates, their sly tricks, their hearty play, their hard, pleasing, and sometimes perplexing studies, the labors of the teacher, the true friendships which were there contracted, the books which they studied, and even the benches on which they sat, rose up before him, and he seemed to be in the very midst of those pleasant scenes.

He knew that these little seminaries had been a blessing to the place, and he fondly hoped that the pupils from these schools who had gone abroad, had brought no dishonor upon the town, or its institutions. He could bear testimony that they had been cordially received abroad; and in most cases, he believed, the Westminster schools, and their graduates, had mutually reflected honor upon each other.

7. *The Learned Professions*—Although the number of our Sons who have entered them is not great, yet there is no occasion to be ashamed of *them*, as they are not ashamed of their *native town*.

The following letter from Dr. Joel W. Wyman, a native of Westminster, and now a citizen of South Carolina, was read :

*South Carolina, Beaufort Dist., Sept. 26, 1859.*

MR. MERRIAM :

*Dear Sir,*—Present my sincere acknowledgments to the Committee of Arrangements for their polite and “cordial invitation” to be present at the Centennial Celebration of Old Westminster. Other engagements, and distance so remote, preclude the possibility of my mingling in person, though the spirit will be there, to enjoy the festivities of that great occasion, crowded with historic recollections. The origin and settlement of my native town, the hopes, joys, sorrows, successes and reverses of human beings, moving and acting, for a hundred years, make up a thrilling historic panorama; and nothing could afford me greater pleasure than to join with kindred and old friends in a social “cup of tea,” (preserved from the Boston harbor tea party,) on the 6th of October, 1859. The old Red School-house in the woods, fifty years ago; the physical and mental struggles of youth for pre-eminence; the Old Church on the Hill, where the music of the March winds vied with the Church



choir in loudest strains of melody, spring involuntarily upon my mental vision, as I read your kind letter of invitation.

Permit me to repeat my thanks to the Committee of Arrangements, my cordial good wishes to the old survivors of Westminster, my old associates, and their successors, while a tribute of respectful memory hovers over the grave of the departed, once known and loved.

Yours very respectfully,

J. W. WYMAN.

Watertown, N. Y., Sept. 26, 1859.

J. MERRIAM, Jr., Esq.:

*Dear Sir*,—I thank the Committee, on whose behalf your letter of the 8th inst. invites me to “be present, and participate in, and partake of, the festivities of the Centennial Celebration of ‘Old Westminster,’ on the 6th of October next.” Although it is not my birth-place, my father and mother, my brothers and my sister, were born there, and I spent several of the early years of my life there, commencing at the date of my earliest recollection; and as first impressions are most indelible, so upon the tablet of my memory, underlaying all subsequent impressions, and freshening as life’s journey advances, I remember “Old Westminster,” as she was fifty years ago—her enchanting landscape at sun-rise, and the plaintive song of the whippowil, at evening twilight—her stern Wachusett, king of all the hills—her smiling hill-sides and serene valleys—her placid meeting-house pond—her gurgling, chattering brooks—her corn-fields and grain-fields—her orchards and meadows—her rocks and chestnut woodlands—her *capital* thunder in summer and her wild snow-storms and huge snow-drifts in winter—her Old Meeting-house on the Hill, with its glass-covered box by the door-side, in which the *curious public* had notice of *intended marriages*—the cheerful noon-call of the old “meeting-house bell,” and its solemn, measured death-tones, when the “grim messenger” had invaded the town—her quiet “burying-ground”—her solemn Sabbaths—her Thanksgiving and Election days, when the children had pumpkin pies and plum cakes—the trainings on the Common, when gingerbread and new cider were sometimes plenty and cheap—and last, the Old School-house on the Hill, where Perry’s Spelling Book, Scott’s Lessons, and Alexander’s Grammar, were oft

sensibly impressed upon young minds, through the palm, by the aid of the ferule.

Such were the surroundings and influences that moulded the character of Westminster boys fifty years ago. What changes for the better, time may have wrought, I know not ; but of the few Westminster men with whom I am acquainted, whose character was cast in the mould of the times fifty years ago, all have remembered with pleasure and gratitude the home of their childhood, and none has brought a blush upon the brow, or a stain upon the history, of his native town.

Regretting that I am not able to be present, and wishing you a right happy time, I offer through you the following sentiment :

*Old Westminster*—May her Prosperity be as firm as her hills, and as lasting as her rocks—her Morality as ripe as her years, and as pure as her air—her Charity as broad as her landscape, and as unpretending as her streamlets—and her Peace as serene as her summer sky, and as calm as her deepest glen.

With mingled sentiments of pleasure and sadness,

I remain, respectfully yours,

C. B. HOARD.

*Meriden, Sept. 19, 1859.*

W. S. BRADBURY, Esq. :

*My Dear Sir*,—Your letter of invitation was duly received. Please express my thanks for it to the Committee of Arrangements for the Centennial Celebration of your town. It would give me great pleasure to be present, but it occurs just at the time of the meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, at Philadelphia, which meeting I have engaged to attend ; and others would be disappointed by a change of the plan.

I trust you will have a pleasant and profitable day. I shall ever remain interested in the work and welfare of the citizens of Westminster. And I shall ever rejoice in their success. It is a goodly town, and many good, and some able men and women have been raised there, to do service for the cause of truth and humanity. May she send out many more such, to stand in the places of those that have been, and must soon be, gathered unto their fathers. And may this, and other lands, be made to rejoice, as aforetime, in the reception of her Sons to the various departments of professional

and business life. And so may the gratitude of the nations, and the benediction of the divine Father, come unto, and rest upon her and her Sons forever.

Yours ever, in the bonds of friendship and faith,

O. H. WHITE,

*Ex-Pastor of the 1st Cong. Ch. in Westminster, Ms.*

Rev. Franklin Merriam, of New Boston, N. H., responded to the sentiment. He said that the toast was highly flattering to those who had gone out from the place, and entered into the professions; and though he had not the vanity to take any considerable portion of it to himself, he believed he could say that none of them had brought dishonor upon their calling, or the place of their nativity. But aside from the learned professions, however various their callings might be, or diversified the fields of their labor, Westminster had many noble men who had labored in other fields of usefulness, and well sustained the credit of the town.

Rev. Joseph Peckham, of Kingston, Ms., was then called upon. He acknowledged the compliment of the sentiment, and made a short and pleasing address, in which he recalled many of the scenes of his early life. He interspersed his speech with several appropriate anecdotes, and passed a facetious eulogium upon the Old Meeting-house Hill, and its inhabitants for a half century or more,—making it the most sacred, the most pleasing, the most honorable, the most varying, the most ludicrous spot in the township. He closed by giving as a sentiment:

May the People of Westminster ever retain in their memory the *Old Meeting-house Hill*, and keep it green in their affections.

8. *The Orator of the Day*—Although not a *native*, yet an *adopted citizen*.

Mr. Hudson responded as follows: “After the vain attempt to speak from yonder platform, this morning, where I was rebuked and fairly silenced by the whistling of the wind, and the murmuring of the pendent branches of the stately elms, I shall not attempt to make a speech at this time. I will say, however, that I cherish with pride and affection my associations with the town of West-

minster. True it is not the place of my birth ; but a residence of a quarter of a century has in a great degree allied me to this town. There are many considerations which render this place near and dear to me.

“I have also received many tokens of respect and confidence from the people of this town, which I cherish in fond remembrance. And though for ten years past I have been absent from you, I rejoice that I dwell among your kindred ; for the town of Lexington sent out many emigrants to this place. The Whitneys, the Merriams, the Fessendens, the Estabrooks, the Raymonds, the Edgells, the Pierces, the Cutlers, and some others, either on the male or female side, came from my adopted town. So that though separated from you, I am in the midst of your relatives and friends. I will conclude by giving you a sentiment.”

*The Town of Westminster*—Elevated above her neighbors, her air is peculiarly invigorating ; but when converted into a *gale*, a little annoying to *speakers* and *hearers*.

9. *The Town of Gardner*—A fair and lovely *daughter* of a fond *mother*.

Edwin Glazier, Esq., of Gardner, was called upon to respond to this sentiment, who spoke as follows : “I will simply say that seventy-four years ago last May, Gardner was incorporated ; the mother, therefore, is twenty-six years older than the daughter. Whatever the mother has been, or may be hereafter, I assure you that the daughter is a *buxom lass* ! ”

10. *The Escort*—Although not *military*, yet organized for the purpose of *fighting an enemy* as destructive of property as armed men. May they be as successful in their strife with their natural foe, as they have been, this day, in their new capacity.

11. *The Bands*—Though they speak with *brazen tongues*, their notes, at their bidding, will enkindle the fire of patriotism, or the glow of friendship ; will melt the heart into tender pity, or warm it into fervent devotion.

12. *The Firemen of Gardner*—May they always have “Torrents” of water for their *enemies*, and “Cataracts” of favors for their *friends*.

Mr. Allen Folger, of Gardner, made the following response : “After enjoying what we have this day, and receiving from you the cordial welcome you have given us, it would be doing both you and ourselves injustice, to let this opportunity pass in silence by the Gardner Firemen. As we have listened with interest to the speeches that have been made, we have felt the truth of the remark, ‘that if Westminster could boast of nothing else, she could boast that she had produced MEN.’ We have seen it manifested in the efforts that have been made to minister to our enjoyment to-day ; and we will return our heartfelt thanks, and assure you that we shall not soon forget this occasion. Your Poet has told us that ‘principles were not men.’ No, they are as old as the everlasting hills ; and the principles that were instilled by the fathers into their children, years ago, have been developing, and we see the result in the men and women that Westminster boasts to-day.

“But to return to the sentiment. The Firemen of Gardner intend fully to carry it out ; but sometimes their enemies are *too mighty* for them, and they have to withhold their Torrents of water. If the enemy be only fire, they expect to conquer ; but if it be *wind*, they have to beat a retreat, as they have done to-day. ‘We war not with the Highest.’ They have heretofore endeavored to have Cataracts of favors for their friends, but they have been obliged to confess, as they came around these tables, that their friends knew how to bestow favors, as well as to receive them.”

The sentiments and responses at the table, were interspersed with music from the Bands ; but the same cause which interrupted the speaking, destroyed, in a great degree, the effect of the music ; and as it seemed unkind to call upon the bands to play *second fiddle* to the elements, their labors were, for the most part, dispensed with, to the regret of the assembly.

Several other sentiments were handed in, and several volunteers were proposed, and would have been offered, had the weather been propitious. We will notice a few of them. One was omitted, which can only be partially atoned for by inserting it here.

*The Ladies of Westminster*—Ever first and foremost in every good word and work.

*King Philip and his confederate Chiefs*—Shrewd, bold and daring, in defence of their rights; may their names be venerated for their *patriotism*, and not for their *love of war*.

*Massachusetts, the Home of the Puritan Fathers*—The *model State* of the Union, and the glory of the nation.

*The Generation that may celebrate our next Centennial*—May they be freed from the contaminating influence of *Alcohol*, and be wiser, holier and happier than the present generation.

*Our Anniversary*—A day in our history fraught with grateful recollections of the *Past*, and hopeful anticipations of the *Future*—may our most ardent wishes be realized, and our fair fame ever remain bright and unsullied.

*The Union*—Saved not by *public meetings* and *patriotic resolutions*, but by the dissemination of the great principles of *equity* and *justice*.

*The Toils and Sacrifices of the Founders of the Town*—

The Fathers—men of noble hearts ;

How little do we know,

How many hardships they endured

*One Hundred years ago.*

Then let their names be ne'er forgot,

Who toiled 'mid heat and snow,

To plant their homes among these hills

*One Hundred years ago.*

*The Wachusett and the Monadnock*—They stand as watch-towers, on the South and the North. May our safety, peace, and prosperity, be as enduring as the everlasting hills.

## A N O D E,

COMPOSED FOR THE OCCASION.

Tune — *The Star-spangled Banner.*

On the Hill where our fathers with arms in their hands,  
 Oft knelt in devotion, in fear and in trembling,  
 With exultant thanksgiving, in jubilant bands,  
 Their friends and descendants, this day, are assembling.  
 With a zeal that ne'er tires, our patriot sires  
 Have extinguished the blaze of the wild savage fires ;  
 The might of Jehovah which reigned in their breast,  
 Sustained them in peril, redeemed when oppressed.

And the howl of the wolf and the fierce savage yell,  
 Which pervaded the forest and echoed in wild-wood,  
 Have at length given place to the chime of the bell,  
 To the quiet of age, and the safety of childhood.  
 Like the pilgrims of yore, their perils they bore,  
 Till war and oppression afflicted no more.  
 The faith of assurance which glowed in their breast,  
 Sustained them in peril, in peace gave them rest.

And we their descendants, who've entered the rest  
 Of this blissful Canaan, by Providence given—  
 Shall we prove ungrateful for blessings possessed,  
 And make no return for the bounties of Heaven ?  
 No ; in transports of praise, our voices we'll raise,  
 Till spirits made perfect shall join in our lays ;  
 For God is our refuge, his truth will endure,  
 His grace is eternal, his mercies are sure.

In the evening, a portion of the citizens met at the Congregational Church, where Mr. Haywood repeated his Poem, and several speeches were made by citizens and others, which gave additional interest to the occasion. The Firemen also gave a Ball in honor of the day.

The day passed without accident, or any thing save the high wind, to mar the pleasures of the occasion. And even the disappointment, arising from the cause spoken of, seemed only to produce a mutual sympathy, which bound heart to heart, and almost involuntarily induced every son and daughter of Westmin-

ster to fall back, and seek contentment and pleasure on the bosom of their native land :

‘ And as the child when scaring sounds molest,  
Clings close and closer to the mother’s breast ;  
So the loud torrent and the whirlwind’s roar  
But bound them to their native mountains more.’

Much praise is due to the Firemen, whose sport was entirely destroyed, but who, nevertheless, performed the escort duties with cheerfulness ; and whose appearance and orderly behavior contributed greatly to the show and pleasure of the day. One incident, which reflects honor upon the Westminster Fire Company, deserves mention. When the people were about to repair to the table, it was ascertained that those who wished to partake of the repast, exceeded the number of plates. This fact coming to the knowledge of the Company, who were already provided with tickets, they cheerfully gave them up, that the ladies, the older citizens, and strangers in the town, might enjoy the pleasures of the table.

Thus passed a day long to be remembered in the history of Westminster ; a day which, while it recounted deeds of valor in the past, privations not unmingled in the cup of bliss, and toils made cheerful by the sunlight of hope, on the part of those who transmitted to us the privileges we enjoy, was eminently calculated to unite heart to heart, and to cement in still stronger union the kindred tie of brotherhood ; a day in which the lights and shadows of the past, mingling with the bright joys of the present, spread a lustre over the century of the Town’s history, and inspired the fondest hopes, that the pages of her future history may never be shaded by misfortune, or darkened by crime ; but be enlivened by progress, brightened by prosperity, and rendered more resplendent by intelligence and virtue.



## A P P E N D I X .

---

EVERY student in History has reason to regret the meagre character of the records of the past ; and seeing the importance of full and perfect records, will feel inclined to chronicle the events of his times, so as to relieve those that come after him from the difficulties and embarrassments under which he labors, in presenting a true picture of the ages that preceded him. We have felt this difficulty in our attempt to bring the manners and customs of past generations before the people in our late Celebration, and to show to those now upon the stage to whom we are indebted for the great blessings we enjoy. We have sought in vain for a full list of those who resided in this Township when the place was incorporated ; and to relieve those who may dwell here one hundred years hence from a like disappointment, we will insert a list of our Town Officers for the year 1859, and the Tax Bill for the same year. And though some at this day may deem the information unimportant, we know that its value will increase from year to year ; and before half a century has rolled round, this list will be looked upon with interest, and our children's children will thank us for the information we have transmitted to them.

And, in order to show those who come after us, the desire of the present generation to perpetuate the memory of our Fathers, and to convince coming generations that we do not live for ourselves alone, we will give a copy of the generous vote of the Town in relation to this subject matter :

At a legal meeting held August 27, 1859, after voting to celebrate the Anniversary, and appointing a large Committee for the purpose of carrying the same into effect, it was “ *Voted*, That the Selectmen audit the accounts of the Committee, and draw orders on the Town Treasurer for the same, not exceeding *fifteen hundred dollars*. ”

It was then *moved*, that the Committee cause to be printed a sufficient number of copies of the Address to supply each voter with a copy—whereupon the whole subject was referred to the Committee.

OFFICERS OF WESTMINSTER,  
FOR THE YEAR 1859.

TOWN CLERK.

WILLIAM S. BRADBURY.

### SELECTMEN AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

WILLIAM MAYO, CHARLES UPTON,  
FRANKLIN WYMAN.

ASSESSORS.

THEODORE WHITNEY, DANIEL C. MILES,  
ARETAS RAYMOND.

TREASURER.

DAVID W. HILL.

CONSTABLES.

WILLIAM EDGELL, ALONZO A. PRATT,  
PHILANDER C. BROWN.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ANSON SPAULDING. CLINTON WARNER.  
DANIEL C. MILES.

*Valuation of and Tax upon the Property of the Town of Westminster,  
as taken on the 1st of May, 1859.*

|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |               |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| Valuation of Real Estate,  | . | . | . | . | . | . | \$ 555,054 00 |
| “ Personal Estate,   | . | . | . | . | . | . | 179,822 00    |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>         |
| Total,   | . | . | . | . | . | . | \$ 734,876 00 |
| Amount of money raised to defray town charges,   | . | . | . | . | . | . | \$ 2,500 00   |
| For the support of schools,  | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1,600 00      |
| County tax,  | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1,211 78      |
| State tax,   | . | . | . | . | . | . | 399 00        |
| Overlayings,   | . | . | . | . | . | . | 249 01        |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>         |
| Total,   | . | . | . | . | . | . | \$ 5,959 79   |
| Amount raised to repair the highways, to be laid out in labor<br>among the twenty-six highway districts, | . | . | . | . | . | . | \$ 2,000 00   |

# TAX-PAYERS IN WESTMINSTER.

RATE OF TAXATION—72 CENTS ON 100 DOLLARS.

| NAMES.                    | TAX.     | NAMES.                       | TAX.    |
|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------|
| George Adams,             | \$ 14 01 | Jonathan Boynton,            | \$ 3 52 |
| Alden F. Adams,           | 6 36     | Asa B. Bates,                | 5 83    |
| Levi Allen,               | 21 85    | Alonzo F. Brown,             | 2 58    |
| Frederick Allen,          | 25 11    | Samuel N. Barnes,            | 3 59    |
| Jacob Ames,               | 16 62    | Nathan Baker,                | 1 50    |
| Francis Alzingre,         | 5 40     | Thomas K. Bathrick,          | 8 51    |
|                           |          | Aaron S. Bolton,             | 4 38    |
| Widow Maria Baker, and }  |          | Franklin E. Bolton,          | 1 50    |
| Adin F. Baker, }          | 14 78    | John M. Baldwin,             | 1 50    |
| Samuel Brooks,            | 1 50     | Michael Brashnain,           | 1 50    |
| Sewall Barnes,            | 14 33    | Alfred L. Brooks,            | 1 50    |
| Edward Bacon, Jr.         | 29 06    | Albert E. Brooks,            | 4 02    |
| Edward Bacon,             | 4 74     | Paul D. Black,               | 1 50    |
| Philander C. Brown,       | 5 22     | Levi Baker,                  | 1 50    |
| Asa Brooks,               | 1 61     | Nahum Barrell,               | 33 99   |
| Widow Sally Brooks,       | 27 58    | George R. Battin,            | 1 50    |
| James R. Bruce,           | 13 52    | William M. Baker,            | 1 50    |
| Benson Bigelow,           | 25 53    | Joseph Battin,               | 6 04    |
| Widow L. and }            |          | Merrick Barnes,              | 1 50    |
| Charles W. Barrell, }     | 30 55    | James Brown,                 | 6 55    |
| Luke Bigelow,             | 23 74    | Thomas H. Bailey,            | 16 58   |
| Stephen Bathrick,         | 20 86    | Robert Butterfield,          | 1 50    |
| Stillman Brooks,          | 28 61    | Philip F. Bowman,            | 6 97    |
| Ahijah W. Benjamin,       | 22 28    |                              |         |
| William S. Bradbury,      | 23 46    | Maynard Clapp,               | 1 50    |
| Ivers Brooks,             | 9 28     | Jeremiah Conlan,             | 8 87    |
| Alexander Bigelow,        | 5 71     | John G. T. Cruise,           | 5 80    |
| Eber Baker,               | 28 00    | Joshua Cummings,             | 23 10   |
| Hollis Bolton,            | 29 02    | Chandler Curtis,             | 19 50   |
| Relief Bond,              | 7 37     | Russell E. Curtis,           | 1 50    |
| Betsey Bacon,             | 8 48     | Reuben Chesmore,             | 14 82   |
| Joel S. Burpee,           | 1 68     | Nathan H. Cutting,           | 7 98    |
| Gamaliel S. Beaman,       | 3 30     | Asa Cutting,                 | 9 42    |
| George Bruce,             | 9 51     | Jonas Cutler,                | 31 74   |
| Joel Benton,              | 2 94     | Amos M. Cutler,              | 6 40    |
| Samuel L. Bridge,         | 10 91    | John Collins,                | 4 38    |
| John Billings,            | 1 50     | George T. Carter,            | 1 50    |
| Alden B. Baker,           | 1 50     | Jonas Cutting,               | 9 42    |
| Simcon L. Bolton,         | 4 20     | Nathaniel Wood, as Admin'r } |         |
| Elmer Baker,              | 9 02     | on S. Cooper's Estate, }     | 102 54  |
| Timothy Brown,            | 23 06    | Charles Cooledge,            | 17 88   |
| Adonijah, and C.H., and } |          | Edward R. Carter,            | 15 54   |
| W. F. Barnes, }           | 25 75    | Walter V. Carr,              | 16 69   |
| Willard Battles,          | 15 25    | John R. Cooledge,            | 17 05   |
| Asaph Bush,               | 4 56     | Malachi Cary,                | 5 24    |
| Benjamin F. Battles,      | 22 55    | John F. Cushing,             | 5 42    |
| Flavel H. Barnes,         | 1 50     | Hugh Cary,                   | 5 81    |
| Abel Bennett,             | 19 65    | Marshall Cooledge,           | 1 50    |
| John Brashnain,           | 7 98     | John Cary,                   | 6 41    |
| Benjamin Blake,           | 3 60     | Alonzo Curtis,               | 24 40   |
| Edwin Blake,              | 2 08     | Michael Carey,               | 2 44    |

|                       |         |                             |          |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Luke W. Carter,       | \$ 1 72 | John Foskett,               | \$ 13 75 |
| Israel N. Carter,     | 11 67   | Daniel Foskett,             | 8 45     |
| Thomas Cary,          | 1 50    | Simon Foskett,              | 2 54     |
| Rufus B. Cook,        | 1 50    | M. S. and C. A. Forbush,    | 74 12    |
| James Callary,        | 1 50    | Reuben Fenno,               | 18 42    |
| Freeman Clark,        | 2 22    | Barney Fitz Morris,         | 2 58     |
| Lawrence Croney,      | 3 52    | Joseph W. Forbush,          | 59 64    |
| Wallace Cheney,       | 1 50    | As Executor on the Estate } |          |
| Charles Cutler,       | 13 85   | of J. K. Gates, }           | 13 68    |
| Caleb W. Cutter,      | 1 50    | Franklin B. Fenno,          | 1 50     |
| Clark, Nichols & Co.  | 45 17   | Albert Forbush,             | 1 50     |
| Samuel Clark,         | 4 74    | George Findell,             | 1 50     |
| Harvey Clark,         | 1 50    | Otis Flagg,                 | 2 51     |
| John Cary,            | 2 58    | Levi Felch,                 | 9 53     |
| Thomas Carter,        | 1 50    |                             |          |
| Patrick Callary,      | 1 72    | Samuel Gates,               | 16 17    |
|                       |         | Asaph Gates,                | 7 78     |
| Aaron Derby,          | 1 50    | William P. Gray,            | 6 90     |
| Asa Dike,             | 15 07   | Jonathan S. Gray,           | 2 07     |
| Thomas Drury,         | 15 19   | Sylvester Gray,             | 1 50     |
| Israel Dickinson,     | 1 50    | Levi Graves,                | 6 10     |
| Israel Dickinson, Jr. | 19 70   | James E. Gates,             | 4 63     |
| Thomas Damon,         | 30 55   | George W. Gibbs,            | 3 64     |
| Luke Divoll,          | 14 06   | B. F. D. Gibbs,             | 1 50     |
| Vinall S. Dunn,       | 5 67    | Leonard M. Gates,           | 16 23    |
| Almond Derby,         | 9 71    | Martin Griffin,             | 1 50     |
| John J. Dupee,        | 12 67   | Carlos Griffin,             | 5 28     |
| Leander H. Dupee,     | 6 18    | Patrick Gately,             | 4 27     |
| Abner E. Drury,       | 1 50    | James Griffin,              | 2 58     |
| Abner M. Drury,       | 15 54   | Harry Green,                | 4 49     |
| Michael Day,          | 4 16    | Warren P. Gibbs,            | 4 60     |
| Timothy J. Devine,    | 1 08    | Calvin G. Goodridge,        | 10 92    |
| John Danvee,          | 5 34    | Heirs of Thomas Gaut,       | 2 88     |
| John Donley,          | 4 56    | Patrick Griffin,            | 1 50     |
| Patrick Donley,       | 2 80    | Mary E. Goddard,            | 2 43     |
| Ferdinand Dickinson,  | 1 50    | Martin Gately,              | 4 00     |
| Joseph Dutton,        | 1 50    | Walter E. Goodridge,        | 1 50     |
| Henry N. Derby,       | 1 50    |                             |          |
|                       |         | John Haywood,               | 42 70    |
| John C. Everett,      | 12 06   | Joseph Howard,              | 9 46     |
| Nathan Eaton,         | 5 28    | David W. Hill,              | 14 54    |
| Nathan Eaton, Jr.     | 5 18    | Lucia M. B. Hill,           | 5 04     |
| Marshall Eaton,       | 9 95    | Nathan Howard,              | 10 75    |
| Millicent Estabrook,  | 14 72   | Joseph Howard, 2d,          | 9 86     |
| Betsey Estabrook,     | 1 94    | Franklin Howe,              | 27 30    |
| Mary Estabrook,       | 1 62    | George Harris,              | 16 30    |
| John Estabrook,       | 2 81    | William Hadley,             | 4 23     |
| William Edgell,       | 5 10    | Phineas P. Hartwell,        | 15 37    |
| Ellery Estabrook,     | 19 39   | Benjamin Harrington,        | 12 49    |
| Simeon Eaton,         | 1 50    | Amos B. Holden,             | 4 38     |
| James M. Eaton,       | 1 50    | Wid. Betsey Holden,         | 72       |
| William Eaton,        | 6 46    | Wid. Mary Hagar,            | 19 94    |
| Wid. Lucy W. Estey,   | 27 11   | George W. Hagar,            | 30 34    |
| Preston P. Ellis,     | 6 18    | Jonas and Handel Holden,    | 10 31    |
| Stillman Eaton,       | 9 79    | Benjamin Howe,              | 7 91     |
| Augustus Eager,       | 14 69   | Daniel Harrington,          | 21 92    |
| Charles A. Estabrook, | 5 32    | Asa Holden,                 | 1 50     |
| Oliver B. Estey,      | 6 42    | Leonard Hoar,               | 4 20     |
| Horatio Eager,        | 32 46   | John Hoar,                  | 3 55     |
| William W. Estey,     | 2 94    | Wid. Hannah Howe,           | 72       |
| John T. Emerson,      | 2 76    | Willard Houghton,           | 2 41     |
| Francis Estey,        | 2 94    | Leander Hartwell,           | 3 93     |
| Preston Ellis,        | 29 11   | John Horn,                  | 1 60     |
|                       |         | Isaac Hall,                 | 23 94    |

|                                |         |  |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|--|---------|
| Charles Howe,                  | \$ 4 09 | Artemas Merriam,                                 | \$ 2 52 |
| Frederick J. Hay,              | 13 99   | Noah May,  | 9 42    |
| Charles H. Howe,               | 1 75    | Wid. Aehsah Mosman,                              | 7 45    |
| Calvin Holden,                 | 5 28    | Abel Mosman,                                     | 36      |
| Joseph Hackett,                | 1 50    | Silas and Charles Mosman,                        | 1 30    |
| William B. Howe,               | 1 97    | Silas Mosman,                                    | 2 22    |
| George H. Harris,              | 1 50    | Daniel Mosman,                                   | 14 47   |
| Rufus Howe,                    | 1 50    | John Mosman,                                     | 6 09    |
| Gardner Howe,                  | 1 50    | Stephen Mosman,                                  | 1 50    |
| Malcus Harrington,             | 1 82    | Daniel Miles,                                    | 21 84   |
| Lucretia Howard,               | 34      | Daniel C. Miles,                                 | 19 71   |
|                                |         | Charles Mosman,                                  | 2 22    |
| Milton Joslin,                 | 1 64    | George Miles,                                    | 44 84   |
| Ward Jackson,                  | 1 50    | Agent for Louisa Jones,                          | 36      |
| Josiah Jackson,                | 9 83    | " for Mary Jones,                                | 36      |
| Edward and L. Jackson,         | 25 20   | William Mayo,                                    | 27 42   |
| Levi Jackson,                  | 3 60    | John C. Miller,                                  | 27 47   |
| William G. Jaquith,            | 1 50    | Jonas Miller,                                    | 19 01   |
|                                |         | Marratt Morris,                                  | 1 08    |
| Samuel G. Kendall,             | 9 96    | John Miller,                                     | 1 50    |
| Trustee for Heirs of A. Fowle, | 3 60    | Amos Miller,                                     | 31 02   |
| Kendall & Cheney,              | 14 40   | Joseph N. Minott,                                | 11 58   |
| Kendall & Forbush,             | 15 84   | George W. Merriam,                               | 13 63   |
| Thomas Knower,                 | 13 74   | Patrick McCarty,                                 | 2 48    |
| Horace B. Knower,              | 10 91   | John Minott,                                     | 36 14   |
| Sylvanus Kendall,              | 2 94    | Reed Merriam,                                    | 32 37   |
| William L. Kilgore,            | 20 42   | Lorenzo Mansur,                                  | 1 50    |
| Thomas Kendall,                | 1 68    | Francis S. Morse,                                | 8 64    |
| Ezekiel Kendall,               | 5 82    | Albert Minott,                                   | 5 62    |
| James Kenney,                  | 2 62    | Patrick McDonald,                                | 1 50    |
| George King, Jr.               | 1 50    | Edward P. Miller,                                | 7 43    |
| Barthey Kely,                  | 1 50    | Asaph L. Moody,                                  | 1 50    |
| Samuel D. Knight,              | 3 66    | George W. Miller,                                | 1 50    |
|                                |         | Reuben P. Merriam,                               | 11 37   |
| John Lewis,                    | 13 38   | Frederick Minott,                                | 1 50    |
| D. and J. H. Laws,             | 23 78   | Calvin Miller,                                   | 1 50    |
| David Laws,                    | 2 88    | Marius H. Moore,                                 | 6 54    |
| John H. Learned,               | 9 39    | Austin Mosman,                                   | 1 50    |
| Franklin Lombard,              | 14 93   | Luther Maynard,                                  | 19 03   |
| John Lynde,                    | 12 01   | Hannah Miller,                                   | 54      |
| Greenleaf Lamb,                | 13 74   |  |         |
| Henry Lucas,                   | 33 23   | Edmund Nichols,                                  | 91 61   |
| Amos Lewis,                    | 1 50    | George F. Clark, and Augus- }<br>tus E. Nichols, | 12 59   |
| H. J. Leland,                  | 6 54    | Henry E. Newell,                                 | 2 36    |
| Stephen F. Lamb,               | 1 50    | Joel Newton,                                     | 21 26   |
| John G. Lamb,                  | 2 22    | William Nichols,                                 | 1 82    |
| Oliver T. Leighton,            | 9 68    |  |         |
| Ephraim Lovkin,                | 1 99    | Lawrence O'Neal,                                 | 1 50    |
| Crosby Lewis,                  | 4 69    | Marshall Oliver,                                 | 3 48    |
| John Lamore,                   | 1 64    | Clarendon Oxford,                                | 1 44    |
|                                |         |  |         |
| John Merriam Estate,           | 38 88   | Aehsah and Maria Perkins, }                      |         |
| Caleb S. Merriam,              | 14 17   | and Aehsah Hawkes, }                             | 2 74    |
| Jonas Merriam,                 | 22 86   | Josiah Page,                                     | 50 56   |
| Oliver M. Merriam,             | 15 22   | Russell Pratt,                                   | 5 66    |
| Joel Merriam,                  | 5 39    | Joseph Perry,                                    | 54      |
| Merriam & Holden,              | 58 58   | Major Page,                                      | 19 22   |
| Farwell Morse,                 | 7 82    | Amos Patridge,                                   | 5 45    |
| Sewall Morse,                  | 12 95   | Michael Plunket,                                 | 1 80    |
| Joel Merriam, Jr.              | 11 65   | Hiram Polly,                                     | 5 56    |
| Merriam & Hill,                | 2 16    | Robert Peckham,                                  | 7 62    |
| Thomas Merriam,                | 32 52   | James Pierce,                                    | 17 33   |
| Caleb S. Merriam, as Agent }   |         | Edmund A. Proctor,                               | 11 38   |
| for Wear, }                    | 3 60    |  |         |

|                                 |         |                              |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|---------|
| Samuel H. Peckham,              | \$ 1 50 | John Stickney,               | \$ 3 20 |
| Alonzo A. Pratt,                | 10 14   | Lyman Seaver,                | 1 50    |
| Bushrod W. Prescott,            | 2 11    | Walter H. Sawtell,           | 1 50    |
| Amos Pierce,                    | 3 16    | Norman Seaver,               | 1 50    |
| Elisha Pierce,                  | 18 32   | Stillman Sawyer,             | 13 59   |
| Preston Pond,                   | 1 50    | Charles G. Starkey,          | 1 50    |
| Jonathan Petts,                 | 4 63    | Sanford M. Sawin,            | 1 50    |
| James Puffer,                   | 33 14   | Isaac Seaver, 3d,            | 8 20    |
| Harvey Peirce,                  | 1 50    | Sawin & Foster,              | 20 05   |
| Wid. Mary Parker,               | 14 40   | Alonzo J. Stone,             | 37 72   |
| Hartford Potter, Guardian for } | 2 16    | Joseph Simmons,              | 10 13   |
| Wallace Butterfield,            |         | Chauncey H. Stone, Ex'r on } | 8 59    |
| Francis Prew,                   | 1 50    | Estate of Mary Cooper,       |         |
| Porter F. Page,                 | 2 08    |                              |         |
| Ivory Phillips,                 | 5 10    | Brown E. Totingham,          | 3 73    |
| George Peirce,                  | 1 50    | Wid. Elisha Totingham,       | 2 52    |
|                                 |         | Benjamin Tilden,             | 1 50    |
| Ives Ray,                       | 11 38   | Abraham Totingham,           | 3 44    |
| Solon Raymond,                  | 25 46   | Otis Titus,                  | 19 72   |
| Nathan Raymond,                 | 1 50    | Solomon F. Towne,            | 4 38    |
| Milton Raymond,                 | 2 04    | George W. Towne,             | 16 99   |
| Abijah H. Raymond,              | 16 77   | George W. Towne, as Agent }  | 2 88    |
| Aretas Raymond,                 | 25 96   | for P. F. Towne,             |         |
| Jonah Rice,                     | 4 24    | George W. Totingham,         | 6 43    |
| William E. Rice,                | 6 22    | Josiah S. Tucker,            | 2 40    |
| George Raymond,                 | 3 48    | Francis W. Tufts,            | 1 50    |
| James Ryan,                     | 2 62    |                              |         |
| Anson Ray,                      | 26 09   | James Underwood,             | 1 72    |
| Asaph Rice,                     | 2 58    | Charles Upton,               | 19 14   |
| Asa W. Rand Estate,             | 5 04    |                              |         |
| Joel Rice,                      | 6 83    | Handel Winship,              | 1 50    |
| Asa and Eli W. Raymond,         | 34 01   | Lorenzo Winship,             | 31 24   |
| Henry M. Raymond,               | 3 17    | Marshall White,              | 30 70   |
| Martin Ryan,                    | 1 50    | Sylvester Winship,           | 23 64   |
| Clark Rice,                     | 1 50    | Charles Winship,             | 4 02    |
| Phincas W. Reed,                | 79 53   | Simeon Warren,               | 19 08   |
| Ephraim H. Rand,                | 2 44    | Miriam Warren,               | 72      |
| William C. Rand,                | 1 50    | Theodore Whitney,            | 8 92    |
| Jason Richardson,               | 1 50    | John Whitney,                | 19 00   |
|                                 |         | Abner Whitney,               | 22 45   |
| William Sawin,                  | 14 88   | Wid. Naney Wood,             | 8 64    |
| Charles H. Stearns,             | 19 50   | David Wyman,                 | 23 78   |
| J. W. Sawin,                    | 13 98   | Wid. Jane Wyman,             | 7 56    |
| Joseph Sawin,                   | 12 73   | Jonas Whitney,               | 22 24   |
| Reuben Sawin,                   | 10 80   | Aaron Whitney,               | 13 12   |
| Anson Spaulding,                | 10 44   | Smyrna Whitney Estate,       | 9 00    |
| John Sawin,                     | 28 35   | Joseph G. Whitney,           | 8 40    |
| Levi Sawyer,                    | 1 50    | David Whitney,               | 3 27    |
| James Sawin, Jr.                | 16 40   | David Whitney, Jr.           | 1 50    |
| Isaac Seaver, 2d,               | 11 82   | George W. Whitney,           | 30 96   |
| James Sawin,                    | 1 50    | Benjamin Wyman,              | 59 43   |
| Isaac Seaver,                   | 21 73   | Franklin Wyman,              | 176 14  |
| Asahel Seaver,                  | 9 28    | Aaron Wood, 2d,              | 9 78    |
| Widow Mary Smith,               | 5 76    | Calvin Whitney,              | 27 37   |
| Amos P. Spaulding,              | 13 38   | Benjamin F. Wood,            | 23 46   |
| Oliver Sampson,                 | 16 01   | C. M. E. Wood,               | 2 16    |
| Job W. Seaver,                  | 18 78   | John M. Whitney,             | 4 38    |
| Amos Saunders,                  | 4 02    | T. D. Wood,                  | 25 50   |
| Aaron Sawin,                    | 2 22    | Emery Warner,                | 5 10    |
| George Smith,                   | 28 46   | James B. Wood,               | 9 85    |
| Joshua Smith,                   | 5 86    | Aaron Wood,                  | 36 44   |
| Jonathan Sawin,                 | 3 38    | Aaron Wood, Adm'r on Es- }   | 2 16    |
| Daniel H. Stone,                | 2 22    | tate of Moses Cutter,        |         |
| Samuel H. Sprague,              | 38 25   | Abraham Wood,                | 11 58   |

|   |         |                             |         |
|---|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Lucy B. Wood, Adm'x on the }<br>Estate of Sylvester Miller, } | \$ 7 20 | Dr. Clinton Warner,         | \$ 2 54 |
| Lucy B. Wood,   | 14 85   | Horace S. Woodward,         | 8 52    |
| Benjamin H. Whitney,  | 11 47   | Augustine Whitney,          | 5 53    |
| Joseph Whitman, Executor on }<br>Estate of Mary Hill, }       | 72      | Stillman Whitney,           | 1 50    |
| Joseph Whitman,   | 119 62  | Thomas P. Williams,         | 7 54    |
| J. M. Whitman,  | 1 50    | T. P. Williams, Agent for } | 7 56    |
| Jerome Whitman,   | 4 16    | William Packard,            | 1 50    |
| Marcus Whitman,   | 5 10    | Edward Whitman,             | 1 50    |
| Alonzo Whitman,   | 5 10    | Stephen C. Whitney,         | 7 12    |
| Asa P. Whitney,   | 3 16    | Josephus Wood,              | 54      |
| Wyman, Tylston & Wilder,                                      | 72      | Nancy M. Wood,              | 1 50    |
| Caleb Witherbee,  | 11 38   | George Wood, 2d,            | 1 50    |
| Allen B. Wood,  | 17 89   | Clinton D. Wheeler,         | 3 30    |
| Joseph Woodbury,  | 7 69    | Lafayette Willard,          | 1 50    |
| Silas Ward,   | 1 93    | Addison E. Wineh,           | 1 50    |
| Wid. Ann M. Whitney,  | 11 52   | Stephen Wheeler,            | 1 50    |
| Jonas N. Whitney,   | 6 47    | James Wheeler,              | 20 08   |
| Wid. Abigail P. Wears,  | 72      | Peter Wright,               | 10 14   |
| Mary A. Wears, exempt,  |         | Stephen Wood,               | 1 50    |
| Wid. Betsey Wheeler, "  |         | George Wood,                | 16 14   |
| Wid. Mary Wheeler, "  |         | Lovina Wheeler,             |         |
|   |         | Orange Young,               | 11 17   |

## REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GENERAL COURT,

*From 1780 to 1859, arranged in the order in which the name first appears, with the years against each name.*

|                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ABNER HOLDEN, 1781, '82, '86, '87.    | CYRUS WINSHIP, 1829 to '32.     |
| ELISHA JACKSON, 1783, '85.            | MIRARI SPAULDING, 1834.         |
| JOSIAH PUFFER, 1787, '91, '92.        | JOSIAH HOWE, 1835.              |
| STEPHEN HOLDEN, 1788.                 | JOSEPH H. WHITNEY, 1836 to '39. |
| EBENEZER JONES, 1796, '97, '99, 1800. | JOSEPH WHITMAN, 1837.           |
| JONAS WHITNEY, 1802 to '14.           | EDWARD BACON, 1843.             |
| ABEL WOOD, 1809 to '14.               | WILLIAM S. BRADBURY, 1845.      |
| JAMES WHITE, 1815 to '18, '20.        | JOHN WHITE, 1851.               |
| ALEXANDER DUSTIN, 1815 to '17.        | JOHN MINOTT, 1852.              |
| EDWARD KENDALL, 1820, '21, 34.        | GEORGE KENDALL, 1854.           |
| TIMOTHY DOTY, 1824, '27.              | EDWARD KENDALL, Jr. 1855.       |
| SIMEON SANDERSON, 1828.               | HARRISON G. WHITNEY, 1856, '57. |
| CHARLES HUDSON, 1829 to '32.          | WILLIAM MAYO, 1859.             |

N. B.—In the years not mentioned above, the Town was not represented. Mr. Mayo represented the District composed of Westminster and Gardner.

## C O N T E N T S .

---

Introduction, p. 5....Indians submit to the Colony, p. 6....Narraganset War, p. 6....Grant to the Soldiers, p. 7....Meeting of the Grantees, p. 8....Companies drew their Townships, p. 9....Lots laid out in No. 2, p. 10....First House and Saw Mill erected, p. 11....Bounty to Settlers, p. 12....Fairbank More settled, p. 13.... Joseph Holden settled, p. 14....Privations, p. 15....Marked Road to Lancaster, p. 17....Philip Bemis, p. 17....Thomas Bemis, p. 18....Meeting-house built, p. 18 ....Thomas Stearns, p. 19....Grist Mill, p. 19....Daniel Hoar, p. 19....Joseph Miller, p. 20....Lynde, Garfield, and Graves, p. 21....Bigelow, p. 22....Samuel Whitney, p. 23....Hadley, Baldwin, Dunster, Smith, Walker, Horseley and Stedman, p. 24....Rev. Mr. Marsh settled, p. 25....Fear of the Indians, p. 26....Proprietors' Meeting held in the Township, and Petition for an Act of Incorporation, p. 28....Names of the Inhabitants in 1759 and '60, p. 29....Mileses, p. 30....Wood, p. 31....Estabrook, Rand and Woodward, p. 32....Taylor, Conant, Dike, Baker and Edgell, p. 33....Jacksons, Whitneys, and Harrington, p. 34....Brooks, Winship, Cohee and Walker, p. 35....District incorporated, p. 35....Epidemic, p. 36....Rev. Mr. Rice settled, p. 36....Incident in the French War, p. 38....Immigrants from 1760 to 1770, p. 38....A Resolution against Idleness, p. 39....Town incorporated, p. 40....Preparation for the Revolution, p. 40....Importance of Town Meetings, p. 41....Soldiers furnished in the Revolution, p. 42....Rejection of the new Constitution, p. 47....Struggles during the Revolution, p. 48....State of things after the Revolution, p. 48....Settlers from 1770 to 1780, p. 49....Warned out of Town, p. 50 ....A tract of territory set off to constitute the Town of Gardner, p. 50....New Meeting-house erected, p. 50....Schools, p. 51....New Settlers, p. 52....Statistics of Population, &c. p. 52....Value of Houses in 1798, p. 53....Manufactures, p. 55 ....Religious Societies, p. 55....Public Health, p. 56....Situation and Extent, &c. of the Town, p. 57....Public Men, p. 59....Title to the Lands, p. 60....Manners and Customs a Century ago, p. 63....Character of the Puritans, p. 65....Conclusion, p. 67.

List of the Grantees, p. 69.

Poem, p. 73.

Proceedings, p. 97....Officers of the Day, p. 98....Escort, p. 99....The Character of the Day, p. 100....The Procession, p. 101....Exercises at the Speaker's Stand, p. 102....President's Speech at the Table, p. 104....Remarks of Mr. Smith, p. 106 ....Letter of Hon. Abijah Bigelow, p. 107....Remarks of Dr. Allen, p. 108....Remarks of Mr. Miller, p. 109....Response of Mr. Miles, p. 111....Remarks of Mr. Kendall, p. 111....Letter of Dr. Wyman, p. 112....Letter of Mr. Hoard, p. 113....Letter of Mr. White, p. 114....Remarks of Messrs. Merriam and Peckham, p. 115 ....Remarks of Mr. Folger, p. 117....Ode, p. 119.

Town Officers, p. 122....Tax-payers, p. 123....Representatives to the General Court, 127.

---

☞ In the list of petitioners, page 29, for *James* Winship, read *Jonas* Winship.  
On page 98, for Dr. Clinton *Warren*, read Dr. Clinton *Warner*.






CELEBRATION

OF THE

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE INCORPORATION OF

WESTMINSTER.

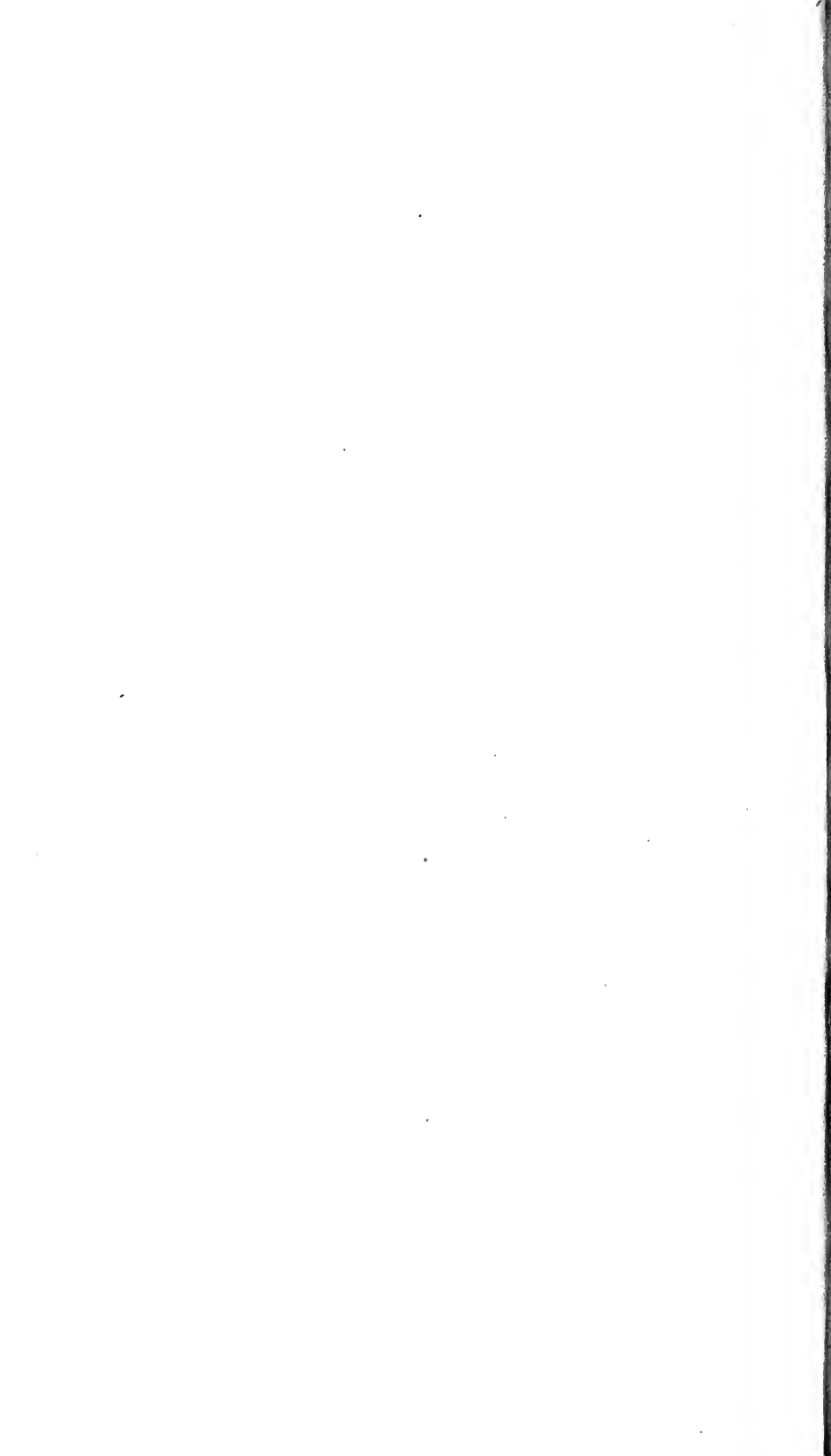




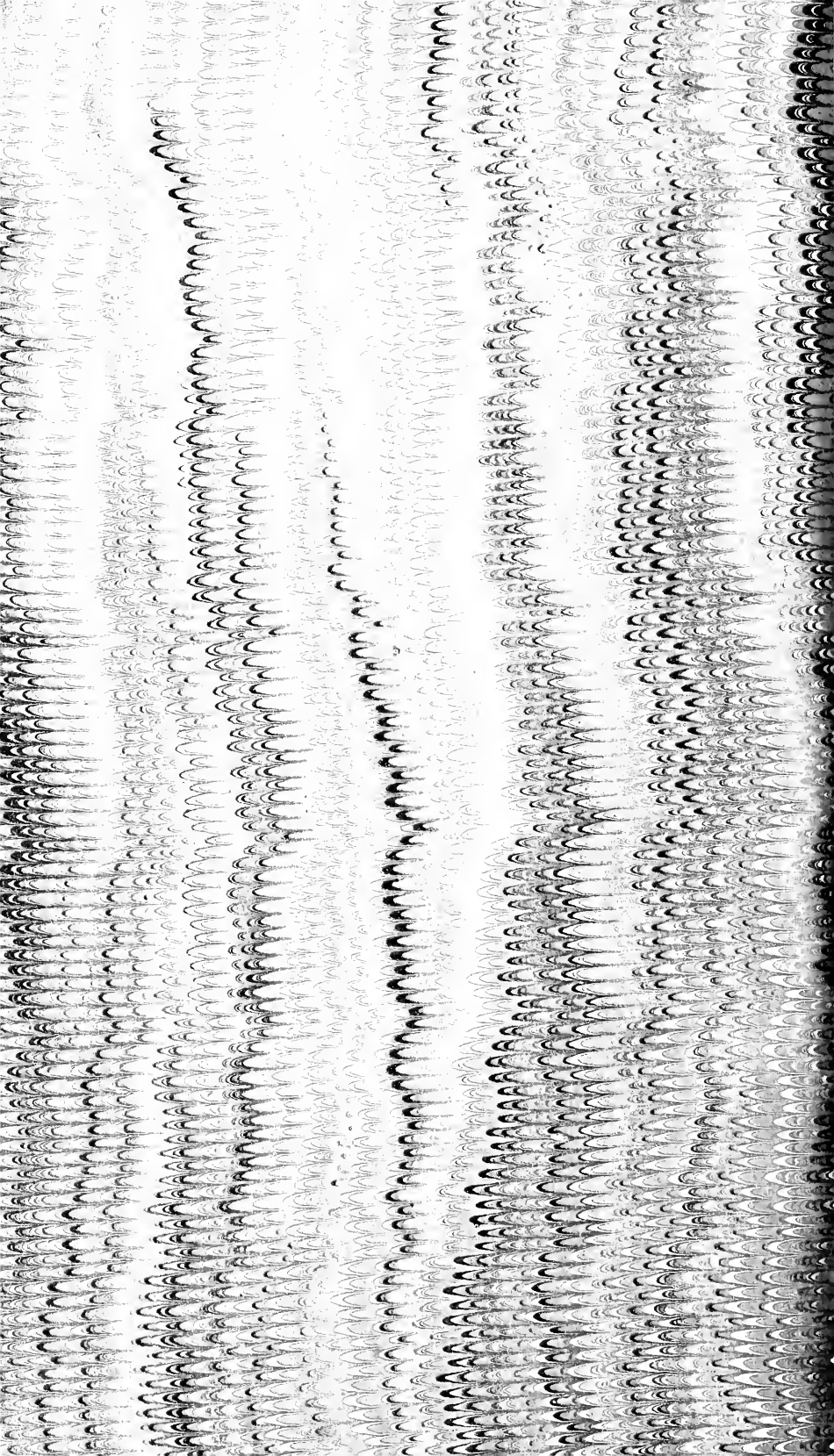




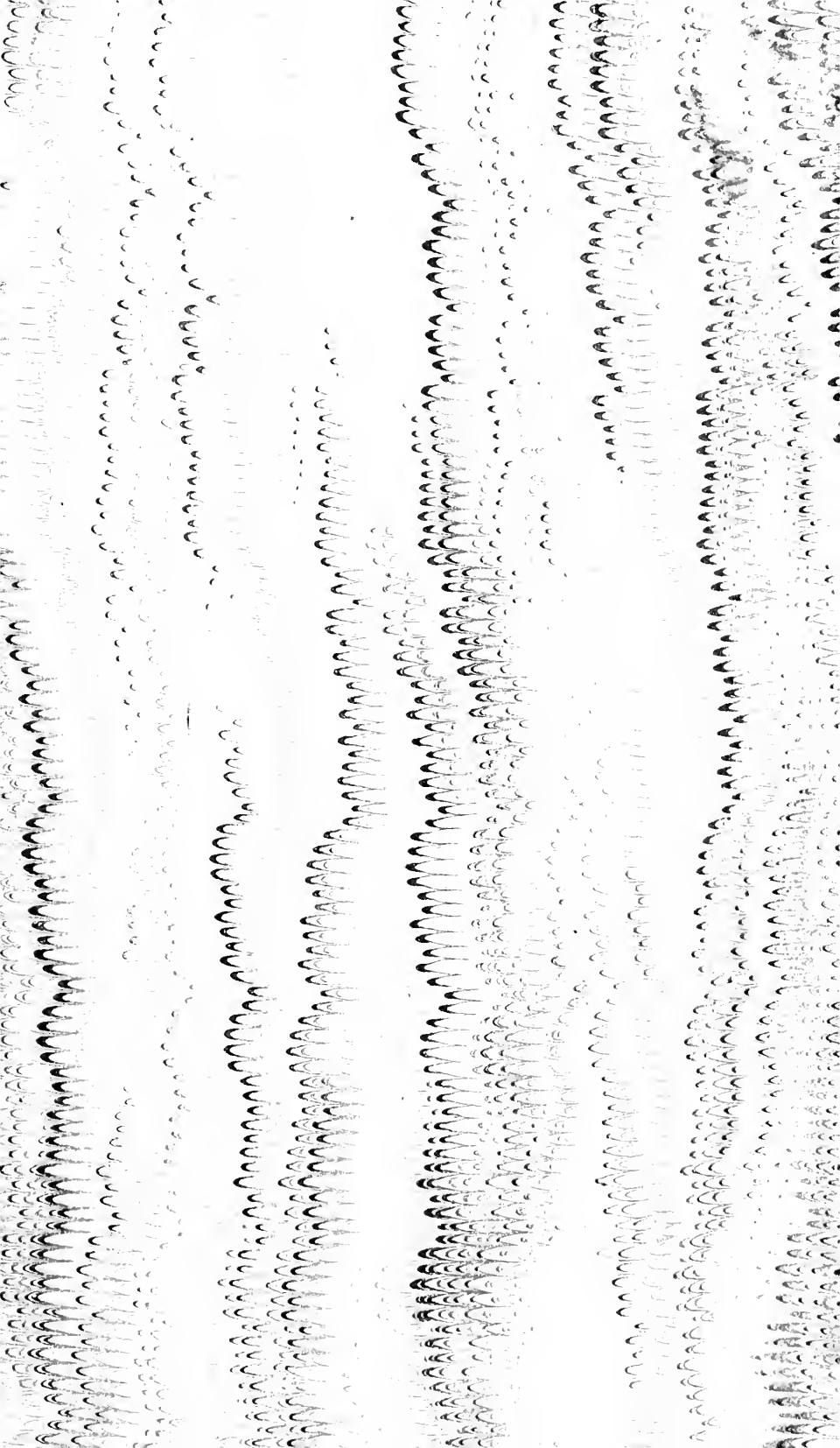




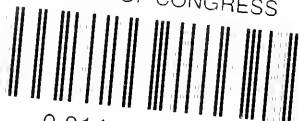








LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 078 207 5